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Bahrain seeks 3 for attack on embassy

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahraini police are seeking two gunmen and the driver of a getaway car after the shooting of a guard outside the Russian embassy, an official said Tuesday. The Bahraini official, asking not to be named, told AFP the guard was seriously wounded but his condition has stabilised. He gave no motive for Monday's attack, but diplomats said the police guard was the target. "Two armed men carried out the attack before escaping in a car which was waiting for them near the Russian embassy," the official said. The authorities were hunting for at least three assailants. Security outside the embassy was boosted on Tuesday and access cut off to the mission in the Zinj district of Manama. Monday's attack was the first on a foreign mission since anti-government unrest erupted in the emirate in December 1994, claiming at least 24 lives.

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King: Dialogue should be instrument for progress

HM visits Aiy town in Karak Governorate to cheering welcome, pledges to build 'state of law'

AIY, Karak Governorate (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein called for dialogue on Tuesday during a visit to this southern town as local tribes pledged allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

In a speech to a cheering crowd of some 3,000 people in Aiy town near Karak, the King pledged to "build a state of law."

It was the King's first visit to Karak Governorate after a trip he made on Sunday following two days of unrest there against an increase in the price of bread.

King Hussein, who flew in by helicopter accompanied by senior officials, called for "dialogue to become an instrument of progress in all policy-making and during debate on all issues."

He received a sword as a pledge of allegiance by local tribes, during a ceremony of songs and dance at which a traditional feast of mamsaf was served.

King Hussein told the gathering: "I pray to God to help me serve you and serve the future generations in the remaining years of my life and I hope that dialogue will remain our method to attain what is best for us and to solve our problems," King Hussein said.

"Jordanian citizens take pride in the achievements of their nation and their country, the country of the martyrs and the land that welcomed the armies of the Islamic conquest, which we will always protect with our souls as we strive to achieve progress and development," the King said.

"We should look ahead and work together with God's help united in purpose under all circumstances and protecting the country's achievements," he said.

King Hussein reaffirmed the need for the Jordanian people to maintain and strengthen national unity in the face of challenges and difficulties and making Jordan a model for others through its steadfastness and sacrifice.

The King was welcomed by crowds who lined the streets and public squares chanting welcoming slogans and raising posters of welcome and the King's portraits.

Aiy's Parliament Member Ahmad Kasabeh, a former member of Islamic Action Front, and other dignitaries from the Karak Governorate delivered speeches welcoming the King and pledging continued allegiance to the Hashemite

Throne. The speakers emphasised their determination to protect national unity and prevent hostile elements from tampering with the country's security and stability.

Upon the King's arrival accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah, Prince Faisal and Prince Hamzeh, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Director of the National Security Council, and other officials, the local inhabitants slaughtered camels before the King as a traditional show of welcome.

King receives cables

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Tuesday received a cable from Public Security Department's (PSD) head General Nasouh Muhieddin voicing appreciation for the King's leadership and exerted strenuous efforts for Jordan's progress and development.

"I have the honour, Your Majesty, in my name and on behalf of the PSD staff, to relay to you our cordial and warm feelings. Your Majesty, you will remain, with your strenuous efforts and dear sacrifices, a noble example to be followed by the future generations towards progress and development," the cable said.

"We implore God Almighty to protect you and we pledge to be your soldiers committed to your directives and wise leadership," said the cable.

The King also received a cable from General Intelligence Department (GID) Director-General Samih Battikhhi expressing deep appreciation to the leadership of King Hussein who has served his country and people for 44 years.

"We are fully confident, Your Majesty, that this country, which you protected from harm, danger and conspiracy, will remain strong and you will be the symbol of dignity and pride for Jordan and the Arab World," the cable said.

The King also received a cable from Civil Defence Department (CDD) head Major-General Deeb Maani expressing gratitude to the King for his keenness to protect the interest of the country and its citizens, and for protecting them from conspiracies and plots contrived against them.

Egypt and Syria meet on unblocking peace process

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa here Tuesday for talks on how to breathe new life into the stalled peace process with Israel.

Mr. Mousa said afterwards that Egypt backed Syria's stand on peace talks, praising it as "patriotic" and "sound."

He also told journalists before leaving Damascus that he would have many questions to ask his Israeli counterpart David Levy, who visits Cairo on Sunday.

"There are many questions to ask and answers to

be sought quickly on Israel's position," he said. During his visit he gave Mr. Assad a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on efforts to resume Arab-Israeli peace negotiations which have been frozen since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in June.

The two men also discussed "cooperation between their countries to implement the resolutions of the Arab summit in June," which urged Israel to resume peace talks on the basis of land-for-peace

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by local leaders in the southern town of Aiy during a visit he paid there on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

King thanks Crown Prince for his RCMR mission, says government will now adopt follow-up action

Prince Hassan says commission set framework, means and proposals to achieve justice for all

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday sent a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Reform (RCMR), expressing appreciation of the commission's efforts in the past two years and said the government would now follow up the implementation of future steps in the development of the country.

In his message, the King noted that Jordan required the adoption of "an advanced methodology in thought and constructive planning" as a prelude to entering the 21st century. "Thus, as a first step we formed the RCMR, which was provided with the facilities to enable it to study the administrative apparatus of the state and to draw up the framework and the proposals necessary for its development and modernisation," the King said.

"The Royal Commission has submitted its report, fulfilled the mission for which it was established and has set the framework that will shed light on the avenues of development and modernisation in the government agencies," the King said. "We are thus hopeful that the government will utilise the report to enact laws and regulations and make the appropriate decisions."

"The next phase calls for the government to follow up the implementation of future steps in this process so that the national economy will achieve the flexibility, dynamism and ability to face the many challenges ahead," the King

said. In a reply message, Crown Prince Hassan said that he was "honoured to have always worked as a soldier in the ranks of your brave men, striving to serve Your Majesty."

"Since I was given the honour of presiding over the commission two years ago, we set out to find the framework, means and proposals to help achieve justice for all, preserve the interest of the nation and the citizens, protect our achievements and pave the way for us to deal effectively with the continuous changes in our world," the Crown Prince said.

Expressing satisfaction with the commission's achievements, the Crown Prince said: "It is our conviction that the government agencies to which the conclusions of the RCMR will be passed will proceed with your Royal directives to adopt them and make the necessary resolutions for their implementation."

"This phase has come to an end with continuous true and honest labour and I pray that it will pave the way for the future phases that will fulfill Your Majesty's hopes for our people and nation as we enter the new millennium," the Crown Prince said.

King Hussein on Aug. 15 chaired a meeting of the RCMR to review the commission's progress as well as its achievements to develop and modernise the Jordanian public administration system.

Israel approves expansion of settlement, bulldozes Palestinian centre in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel, in a move that enraged Palestinians, on Tuesday it had approved the building of a new neighbourhood at a Jewish settlement in the West Bank. The occupation authorities also bulldozed a Palestinian community centre in the Arab quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, saying the building was illegal and built with funds from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

A defence ministry spokeswoman announced the approval of the expansion of a Jewish settlement. "The neighbourhood in question is within Kiryat Sefer settlement," said the spokeswoman. "The building plan was approved in the past by the previous government and it was frozen and now it has been approved anew according to the government's decisions."

Israel's Maariv newspaper said the neighbourhood comprised 1,806 housing

units but only 900 would be built in the first stage of the plan. The move announced on Tuesday was the first approval of a building plan under the new government. Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has the responsibility of approving any building in the occupied territories.

The decision drew an immediate protest from the PNA, which warned it would resist the policies of the government of Benjamin Netanyahu "on the ground."

Saeb Erekat, minister of local government in the PNA, said: "We have formed popular committees to defend our territory and we will defend our land by both political and diplomatic means but also on the ground," he told AFP on Tuesday.

"This (Israeli) government is not committed to peace or to the signed

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, PNA to seek means to address people's plight

ISRAEL AND the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) agreed Tuesday to step up economic cooperation aimed at easing the plight of the occupied territories in a further bid to accelerate the beleaguered peace process.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Palestinian Trade and Economy Minister Maher Masri announced after 90 minutes of talks here that a joint economic committee would be reactivated for the first time since the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in June.

Mr. Meridor said the first task of the committee would be to formulate a joint programme to present to a Sept. 6 international meeting of donor countries trying to help the PNA autonomy government.

"It is our hope that the talks continue and that we reach agreement on many issues in order to show the donor countries that we are ready for them to do their part," he said.

Mr. Meridor said he was also determined to resolve security problems which led Israel to clamp a military closure on the Palestinian territories seven months ago.

The closure prevented tens of thousands of Palestinians from reaching day jobs inside Israel while stringent Israeli security checks choked off much of the trade in and out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The result has been widespread hardships for the Palestinian public and a PNA budget deficit of nearly \$130 million, according to the United Nations.

Ciller to visit Jordan Sept. 3-4

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller will pay an official visit to Jordan Sept. 3-4 for talks on bilateral relations and regional issues, a spokesman for the Turkish embassy said Tuesday. It will be Mrs. Ciller's first visit to Jordan, which maintains traditionally strong relations with Turkey. Talks between Mrs. Ciller and Jordanian leaders are expected to focus on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and related issues such as water and other areas of regional cooperation. A visit by the Turkish foreign minister to Jordan was scheduled earlier this year but was deferred because of political developments and changes of governments in Turkey. Mrs. Ciller is leader of a senior partner in the Turkish coalition government led by Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's Welfare Party and a former prime minister of Turkey. Details of Mrs. Ciller's visit here were not immediately available.

Kabariti: Jordan will remain Iraqis' lifeline

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Tuesday despite strains in relations with Iraq, Jordan remained committed to supporting the Kingdom's eastern neighbour as well as all other Arab countries.

Mr. Kabariti, speaking to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after a meeting with members of the Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said Jordan will always be a lifeline for the Iraqi people.

"The unfortunate events that happened in several areas in the Kingdom recently will not prevent Jordan from a strong supporter of its Arab brethren without exception," Petra quoted Mr. Kabariti as saying.

"Jordan will remain the lungs that permit the Iraqi people to breathe," Mr. Kabariti said. "What happened will not prevent us from offering all what we can to support (Iraqi people's) steadfastness."

That was a reference to charges that "certain official parties in Iraq" were

behind the Aug. 16 and 17 unrest in southern Jordan. Jordan has already taken diplomatic action against Iraq by asking a senior Iraqi diplomat, an Iraqi press attache and a former administrative clerk at the Iraqi embassy here to leave the Kingdom.

In his comments to Petra on Tuesday, Mr. Kabariti reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to democracy and enhancing dialogue with personalities from all political shades.

Petra quoted Islamic Action Front Deputy Bassam Emoush as saying that the premier pledged to release all remaining detainees who were found not to have been involved in or participated in the riots in the south.

Dr. Emoush was quoted by Petra as expressing his satisfaction with the premier's statements.

Opposition deputies meanwhile issued a statement condemning the government's "oppressive measures" and called for the release of all detainees.

(Continued on page 7)

Iraqi hijackers of Sudanese airplane surrender at Stansted

STANSTED, England (Agencies) — A marathon hijack drama ended peacefully here Tuesday when six armed Iraqis seeking political asylum surrendered to police after commandeering a Sudanese airliner to a London regional airport.

The hijack was "successfully concluded," said Essex chief police constable John Burrow.

He said all 186 passengers and 13 crew had safely left the Sudan Airways Airbus A-310, nine hours after it touched down at Stansted airport 45 kilometres northeast of London at 4:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) Tuesday.

According to the terms of the surrender the hijackers left their weapons aboard the aircraft, he said, and bomb disposal experts were combing the plane for the guns and grenades with which they were said to have been armed.

Police said the six hijackers arrested had an unspecified number of family members with them, and that additional arrests might be made.

The Iraqis demanded witnesses from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and the presence of an Iraqi citizen in London identified as Saddiq Sayah.

A police spokesman said those terms had been met.

"Mr. Sayah was taken to the control tower and from that point they agreed to the surrender to the police," said Mr. Burrow.

Mr. Sayah was said by members of the Iraqi community in London to be well-known for his work helping exiles and refugees. A source said the hijackers knew he was in London, had his telephone number and knew he would act as

intermediary. Mr. Burrow said the question of the hijackers' request for asylum would be referred to the Home Office.

Home Secretary Michael Howard said in a statement: "I am delighted that this incident was resolved peacefully."

Mr. Burrow said the hijackers had chosen Britain because "they saw it possibly as a safe haven — somewhere they would be safe."

But Conservative parliamentarian David Howell, chairman of the influential House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said the hijackers should be sent back to where they had come from. "Hijacking is a horrendous and sometimes murderous crime and hijackers must be dealt with with the utmost severity," he told BBC Radio. "There must be no concessions, the very hint of a concession is a guarantee that some other people down the line... will be murdered."

Walid Al Timimi, a London spokesman for the Iraqi Democratic Party, which opposes Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, said: "We have had several reports of Saddam sending military advisers to Sudan, and it is possible that these hijackers may be members of the Iraqi military."

"There are regular purges of the military in Iraq because Saddam is continuously searching for hostile elements, executing them and then looking for their links."

The plane was seized late Monday on a flight from Khartoum to Amman, and stopped in Larnaca, Cyprus, where authorities said the hijackers had

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat popularity rises despite stalled peace process — poll

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Yasser Arafat's popularity among Palestinians in the occupied territories has grown steadily over the past four months despite the lack of progress in the peace process, according to a poll published Tuesday.

At the same time, however, the survey by the Jerusalem Media Communications Centre (JMCC), a Palestinian media organisation, showed that less than 10 per cent of residents in Arab East Jerusalem strongly supported efforts by Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to gain control over their

city. In the Aug. 19-20 survey of 1,178 adults from across the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, the JMCC found the number of Palestinians expressing strong satisfaction with Mr. Arafat's actions as head of the PNA had risen to 56.5 per cent, from 44.8 per cent in a similar survey conducted in April.

A further 30 per cent said Mr. Arafat's running of the autonomous territories was average and nine per cent said it was poor.

Satisfaction with the veteran Palestinian leader was notably weaker in the West

Bank than the Gaza Strip, where Mr. Arafat has his headquarters. In the Gaza Strip, 72.3 per cent of persons queried were happy with Mr. Arafat's performance, while only 47.1 per cent of West Bank respondents expressed satisfaction.

The survey showed a slight gain of four per cent in the number of Palestinians saying they were pessimistic about the future of the territories since the election in May of right-wing nationalist Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's new prime minister.

But overall 79.6 per cent

of Gazans and 68.7 per cent of West Bank residents remained somewhat optimistic or optimistic about their future.

The Palestinian pollsters found much less enthusiasm under Mr. Arafat's self-rule government, 24.6 per cent somewhat supported it and a quarter were strongly opposed.

The PNA wants to make East Jerusalem, with an Arab population of 160,000 and which Israel "annexed" following the 1967 Mideast war, the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

Israel insists the "united city" will remain its "eternal capital."

The PNA was to have

gained control of most of Hebron in March but Israel has repeatedly postponed its withdrawal from the city, known as a stronghold of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the main opposition to Mr. Arafat.

Finally the poll found little change in public support for the various Palestinian political factions, with Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement backed by 34 per cent ahead of 6.5 per cent for Hamas.

But a significant 29.4 per cent said they trusted no political group.

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But a significant 29.4 per cent said they trusted no political group.

Baker did not seek Clinton approval for Syria-Israel bid

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not seek President Bill Clinton's approval when he travelled to Syria and Israel for secret talks on restarting negotiations last year, a source close to Mr. Baker said Monday.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported last week that Mr. Baker conducted a shuttle mission between Syria and Israel at the request of the Syrians and with the approval of Mr. Clinton.

The newspaper quoted outgoing Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich as saying the trip did not yield results. The source who spoke on condition of anonymity said Mr. Baker, who served in the Republican administration of President George Bush, did not advise Mr. Clinton or U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about the trip in advance and made the visit on his own initiative.

The source said Mr. Baker had standing invitations from both governments.

Mr. Baker met for more than seven hours with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus and later in Israel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The talks with Mr. Assad focused on Syrian concerns about equal and balanced security measures on both

sides of the border. Mr. Baker, who reported the results in a memo to President Clinton after his return, found the key issue to be security but believed differences between Israel and Syria could be bridged with "creativity and diligence," said the source, who was with Mr. Baker on the Mideast tour.

The shuttle, which was kept secret until the Haaretz interview, helped pave the way for a resumption of Israeli-Syrian military talks in May, said the source. Ultimately, however, military negotiations broke down over Israeli proposals for manned monitoring stations in the Golan Heights.

Edward Djerejian, former ambassador to Syria and Israel, confirmed the secret visit to the two countries took place in mid-March of 1995.

Mr. Djerejian, director of the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, accompanied Baker on the Mideast trip.

Gadi Baltiansky, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington, told the Associated Press last week that the Syrians approached Mr. Baker in an effort to spur negotiations. He said Mr. Baker went both to Syria and Israel but "nothing came of it."

Rights group demands release of Israel-held activist

WASHINGTON (Special) — Human Rights Watch's consultant Bashar Tarabieh, after spending one week under interrogation by Israeli security services, was transferred Monday from prison to a hotel in Akko (Akko), following a detention hearing in Akko court.

In a highly unusual move, the judge ordered that Mr. Tarabieh spend the next 48 hours at the Palm Beach hotel, where he may not leave his room or have contact with anyone except his lawyers. He is to remain at the disposal of the General Security Service (GSS), Israel's internal security police agency, which can return him to Kishon (Jalameh) prison for further interrogation during this time.

Mr. Tarabieh, a U.S. resident, was detained on Aug. 19, while on holiday in his native Golan Heights. Until Monday morning's hearing, all court sessions on his case had been closed to the press and the

public. In addition, a court order barred lawyers from discussing the case and barred the news media from reporting on it. The news blackout in Israel ended on Aug. 25, when the daily Ha'aretz published an article based on foreign press reports about the case. The court then agreed to lift the publication ban, and Sunday hearing was open.

Mr. Tarabieh was subjected to degrading and inhumane treatment while in Kishon prison, which is located near Haifa in northern Israel, Human Rights Watch said. "He was hooded, tied to a chair with his hands and feet also tied, and forced to sit in a contorted position for hours. When not being questioned, he was kept handcuffed in a tiny cell. He was denied regular meals, and appeared disoriented and confused. During the first five days of his detention, he had been denied a shower and change of

clothes. On Aug. 25, Mr. Tarabieh was interrogated again for ten to twelve hours, but there were no further reports of ill-treatment," it said.

"While a hotel room is clearly preferable to a jail cell, Mr. Tarabieh is still in de facto custody and at the disposal of GSS agents," Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth said. "They have held Bashar for a week now without charging him. We want him released unconditionally."

Noting that interrogators reportedly threatened to confiscate Mr. Tarabieh's Israeli-issued travel documents, Human Rights Watch also urges Israeli authorities to ensure that he is free to depart Israel so he can return to the United States, where he plans to resume his studies in September.

Mr. Tarabieh's principal work for Human Rights Watch was on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's "genocidal campaign during the late

1980s against Iraqi Kurds," the group said. Mr. Tarabieh has served more recently as a part-time translator and interpreter for the group while working towards a degree at Temple University. He worked as an interpreter for a Human Rights Watch mission to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in July 1996.

Mr. Tarabieh has never been arrested before. He is married to a U.S. citizen and lives in the Philadelphia area.

Human Rights Watch is a non-governmental organisation established in 1978 to monitor and promote the observance of internationally recognised human rights in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and among the signatories of the Helsinki accords. It is supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide.

Jibril to stay in Syria — Sharaa

DAMASCUS (R) — Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Tuesday denied an Israeli newspaper report that Damascus wanted a radical Palestinian guerrilla leader to leave Syria.

Israel's English-language newspaper Jerusalem Post reported on Monday that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had asked Ahmed Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) to leave Syria and go to Iran.

"These are baseless and unrealistic reports. No Palestinian could be expelled from Syria. The presence of the Palestinians here in Syria among their brothers is caused by their expulsion from their main homeland in Palestine," Mr. Sharaa said.

"The Palestinians in Syria leave only by their own will and to their homeland," Mr. Sharaa said.

"If those Palestinians are expelled from Syria and Arab states where should they go?" asked Mr. Sharaa.

Syria hosts over 500,000 Palestinian refugees, including leaders of a 10-member radical Palestinian alliance which opposes peace with Israel and calls for military struggle against the Jewish state.

Syria had rejected demands by Israel and the United States to expel the Palestinian leaders whose groups claimed several attacks in which scores of Israelis were killed.

The United States keeps Syria on a list of countries which allegedly sponsor international terrorism.

Mr. Sharaa said the presence of Syria's name on the list was political and because of the Israeli pressure on Washington.

"We challenged the United States to give us a single proof of any Syrian involvement in international terrorism and there was nothing. The only reason for the existence of Syria's name there is because we host the Palestinians," Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Sharaa also rejected Israeli displeasure over reports that Syria possessed long-range missiles capable of bombing Israeli targets.

Farrakhan seeks government approval for \$1b Libyan gift

WASHINGTON (AP) — A black Muslim leader is seeking the U.S. government's permission to accept \$1 billion from Libya's Muammar Qadhafi, a gift he says would be used to mobilise American black voters and bolster their economic strength.

Louis Farrakhan, who heads the Chicago-based Nation of Islam, formally applied last week to the Treasury Department, asking for permission to accept the pledged money as a humanitarian gesture, said a federal official who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The donation was pledged during a visit to Libya as part of Mr. Farrakhan's foreign tour last January, which also included stops in Iran, Nigeria and Sudan.

In addition, Mr. Farrakhan needs separate approval for an upcoming trip to Libya to receive a \$250,000 humanitarian award Colonel Qadhafi donates each year.

Telephone calls to the Nation of Islam's headquarters were not immediately returned. Mr. Farrakhan has said he would use the money

to promote economic opportunity for blacks by building schools and factories, and for charitable purposes.

During his meeting with Col. Qadhafi, the two men also discussed how to increase the influence of U.S. minorities in this election year and agreed to mobilise "oppressed minorities to play a significant role in American political life," Libya's official news agency reported.

Mr. Farrakhan drew widespread criticism for the trip, which included meetings with Col. Qadhafi, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Nigerian ruler General Sani Abacha.

Col. Qadhafi, a pariah among world leaders, has been labouring for years to rehabilitate his standing through back-channel contacts with the United States.

After he returned to the United States last winter, the Justice Department warned Mr. Farrakhan that he would have to register as a foreign agent if he was carrying out directions from Libya or any other foreign government. Mr. Farrakhan denied in a letter that he was doing so.

Because of its links to terrorism, Libya for years has been under U.S. sanctions that bar most business transactions and limit travel between the two countries.

Mr. Farrakhan's request, first reported Monday by the Wall Street Journal, poses an election-season dilemma for the Clinton administration. The president is under pressure to demonstrate resolve against terrorism, and could risk controversy by appearing to help Mr. Farrakhan, a divisive figure who has been criticised in the past for racist remarks.

Mr. Farrakhan's message to America's black community has been one of self-reliance, discipline, and spirituality. But he also has said that whites and blacks should live separately, that Jews are "blood-suckers" who have a "gutter religion," and that whites are "subhuman."

U.S. regulations against doing business with Libya are aimed at preventing economic benefits from flowing to an outlaw state, and it may be politically difficult for Mr. Clinton to deny a gift to help American minorities.

Israel's religious press wages war on top judge

TEL AVIV (AP) — Lawmakers are calling for an investigation of ultra-orthodox newspapers that called Israeli supreme court Chief Justice Aharon Barak "a scoundrel" and an "enemy of Judaism."

The campaign against Mr. Barak raised the spectre of the hateful accusations that preceded Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination 10 months ago. Some of the papers are affiliated with religious parties in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government.

"They called Rabin a traitor and he was murdered," said Yossi Sarid, a former minister in the Rabin government. "If it could happen once, it could happen again."

Mr. Rabin was assassinated at a Nov. 4 peace rally by an orthodox Jew who claimed a religious ruling called for Mr. Rabin's death to protect those hurt by the government's conciliatory policies towards the Palestinians.

Israel's Channel 2 television said the Shin Bet internal security agency was gathering information on the threats and had increased security around the judge.

"We will not allow a strike at this important and central institution," Mr. Netanyahu said Tuesday. "We have all the apparatus for Judge Barak."

The Hashavim newspaper headlined its editorial in this week's paper, "The target Barak." "Barak is the driving force behind a sophisticated campaign against Jewish life in Israel," the editorial said.

"We must not waste our shells. The battle must be focused on this man, who is very dangerous to democracy and liberties."

Rabbi Asher Zuckerman, editor of the newspaper, defended the editorial and said it reflected an "ideological struggle" in Israel between secular and religious Jews.

"There is a feeling that Aharon Barak manages the state according to his outlook," he said.

Ultra-orthodox Jews were outraged by a supreme court decision two weeks ago to allow traffic on a Jerusalem thoroughfare on the Jewish Sabbath. In response, religious lawmakers called for supreme court judges to be elected by parliament rather than appointed.

Death-row woman pardoned as executioner cleans sword

DUBAI (AP) — A Saudi account of the near-beheading of a condemned woman has given a rare glimpse into crime and punishment under Saudi Arabia's version of Islamic law.

The detailed account from a public square in the Holy City of Mecca appeared Monday in the Al Jazirah newspaper. It told of a woman pardoned by her victim's father only moments before her scheduled death.

Saudi executions are usually conducted in public, although few foreigners have witnessed one. Usually they are reported briefly in newspapers. Monday's account, unusual in its detail, described not only the process of execution, but the power a victim's family can have over the fate of a criminal.

The newspaper gave this account:

Najah Al Kariss was locked in a police truck Sunday when she heard the roar of the crowd. She knew that meant the first execution of the day — of a Pakistani man convicted of armed robbery — had been carried out.

Heads would be next. She would be led out of the truck in the head-to-toe veil that all women in Saudi Arabia wear in public, and beheaded with a sword for killing a man who had tried to "harm" her. The newspaper did not say how.

As the executioner wiped the crescent-shaped blade of his sword, Kariss asked to see Dakeel Al Lubyaybi, the father of the man she killed.

A guard opened the truck door, and Kariss stepped into the 43-degree Celsius sun. In a fearful appeal, she begged Lubyaybi to spare her. Under Saudi law, criminals can be pardoned only by the families of their victims.

Lubyaybi, 66, had already heard appeals from the woman's friends and family, and had even offered \$1 million to grant the pardon, he said.

His wife and children, however, were opposed to it, and he had resolved to watch Kariss die.

But after hearing the woman's pleas — and after the intercession of police officers and others in the crowd — he consulted family members again and decided to forgive Kariss in order to "gain God's blessings."

Kariss wept with gratitude, and as word circulated through the square, the crowd began chanting "Allahu Akbar." Some spectators cheered and ululated, while others fought back tears, the report said. It said Kariss would be freed as soon as the family signs papers acknowledging the pardon. It did not indicate whether Lubyaybi would take the \$1 million.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Captain Planet
15:30 Hot Shots (Sports)
16:00 Bob Morrison Show
16:30 Comedy — ALF
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Sciences Caroon
17:15 La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 Game Show
18:00 Varieties — Les Trans-musicales de Rennes
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:33 Blossom
20:00 Documentary — Man Alive
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:20 Mission Impossible
23:10 Sisters

PRAYER TIMES

04:13 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:23 'Asr
19:42 Maghreb
21:11 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366.
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 18/29
Aqaba 25/37
Deserts 17/34
Jordan Valley 23/36
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:

Dr. Wisam Hazyayin 748563
Dr. Mukhtes Mazharah 820425
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyih 620115
Dr. Muadher Al Qraini 779959
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asenna pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad Jghaltim 992999
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescues

630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 633101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akkleh Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushar Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA

AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Saraa (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:05 New York (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:45 Toronto, Montreal, Amsterdam (add) (RJ)
02:50 Madrid (RJ)
20:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

05:40 London (BA)
09:15 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Munich (YP)
16:00 Rome (AZ)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:35 Amsterdam (KL)
20:20 London (BA)
20:20 Aden (TY)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
22:00 Tel Aviv (LY)
00:55 Bucharest (RO)
03:00 Kuwait (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50 Aqaba (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:55 Madrid (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights
08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:15 London (BA)
10:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:45 Munich (YP)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
17:30 Dubai (EK)
20:45 Kuwait (KL)
21:20 Aden (TY)
23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)
04:00 Amsterdam (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (Marka Airport) proceeding to QAJA (RW)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (trukhammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 830/600
Carrot 180/100
Cauliflower 520/350
Cucumber (large) 240/140
Cucumber (small) 240/150
Eggplant 220/150
Fig 330/250
Garlic 650/400
Grapes 380/250
Lemon 540/350
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 460/300
Mulukthiah 100/60
Onion (dry) 160/90
Okra 900/600
Pea 630/450
Peach 800/500
Pepper (hot) 360/220
Pepper (sweet) 550/350
Pomegranate 350/250
Potato 250/150
Spring Bean 900/600
Sweet melon 400/280
Tomato 160/100
Water melon 200/140

(AP) — For Secretary of State Bill Clinton, he did not seek a shuttle mission to restart talks between Syria and Israel last year, a source who spoke to Mr. Baker said. The source said that Mr. Baker, who was with Mr. Clinton in the Middle East, did not seek a shuttle mission to restart talks between Syria and Israel last year, a source who spoke to Mr. Baker said. The source said that Mr. Baker, who was with Mr. Clinton in the Middle East, did not seek a shuttle mission to restart talks between Syria and Israel last year, a source who spoke to Mr. Baker said.

row woman pardon
cutioner cleans swor

A woman who was pardoned after serving a life sentence for the murder of her husband, has been found guilty of the same crime again. The woman, who was pardoned in 1994, was found guilty of the murder of her husband, who was found dead in a car. The woman, who was pardoned in 1994, was found guilty of the murder of her husband, who was found dead in a car. The woman, who was pardoned in 1994, was found guilty of the murder of her husband, who was found dead in a car.

MARKET PRICES
Wheat: 100 kg. 1.20
Barley: 100 kg. 1.10
Oats: 100 kg. 1.00
Soybeans: 100 kg. 1.50
Cotton: 100 kg. 1.80
Wool: 100 kg. 2.00
Lamb: 100 kg. 1.50
Chicken: 100 kg. 1.20
Eggs: 100 kg. 1.00
Milk: 100 kg. 1.00
Butter: 100 kg. 1.50
Cheese: 100 kg. 1.80
Honey: 100 kg. 1.50
Maple Syrup: 100 kg. 1.50
Apples: 100 kg. 1.00
Oranges: 100 kg. 1.00
Lemons: 100 kg. 1.00
Grapes: 100 kg. 1.00
Pears: 100 kg. 1.00
Plums: 100 kg. 1.00
Cherries: 100 kg. 1.00
Strawberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Raspberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Blackberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Blueberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Cranberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Gooseberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Currants: 100 kg. 1.00
Raspberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Blackberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Blueberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Cranberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Gooseberries: 100 kg. 1.00
Currants: 100 kg. 1.00

Home News

Air industry officials to meet in Damascus, Beirut

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in a two-day meeting hosted by the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO), which coordinates and promotes cooperation between various Arab airline companies, and the Arab Civil Aviation Organisation (ACAO) which deals with civil aviation matters from within the Arab World.

Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Captain Jasser Zayad will lead the Jordanian team to the Aug. 31 meeting in Beirut.

Capt. Zayad said the meeting would focus on future cooperation between the two organisations in matters connected with air navigation, automated reservations for air passengers, flight scheduling in Europe, and matters dealing with the protection of the environment from aircraft noise and exhaust gases.

The Jordanian team also includes Basam Salaita and Yousef Zoubi from the CAA and the Ministry of Transport, respectively, who have now led their delegation to Damascus to attend a three-day meeting with the AACO executive council before heading to Beirut.

According to Capt. Zayad, Jordan will submit a report at the Damascus meeting dealing with Arab policies on air transport, the effects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), civil aviation safety and competition in the air transport industry.



HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein donates blood to a programme he helped sponsor entitled 'A drop of blood means life' under the auspices of the Amman Rotary Club, the National Blood Bank and the Forte Grand Hotel (Petra photo)

Wheat shipment likely to be cleared by Ministry of Supply

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Supply will go ahead with the clearance from port of about 21,000 tonnes of Indian wheat after it is satisfied that the quality of the wheat is up to requisite standards and the seller has fulfilled all regulations, official sources said Tuesday.

The affirmation came amid reports in the local press that the wheat was contaminated and the shipment was rejected by two other countries.

But official sources rejected the reports and said the shipment, ordered by the Ministry of Supply, had come directly from an Indian port.

Other sources said the shipment should have been disinfected for 48 to 72 hours as humidity at the high sea had led to some contamination.

"But such contamination regularly occurs with most wheat shipments and the usual practice is to disinfect the wheat either aboard the ship or in silos," said one source.

"As far as the Ministry of Supply is concerned, the shipment is in order, and there is no impediment in clearing it from Aqaba," said the source.

The ship carrying the wheat docked at Aqaba last week.

According to another source, the wheat was loaded aboard the ship at the western Indian port of Kandla late last month and "it is virtually impossible for the ship to have proceeded to any other port as suggested in the reports," which claimed that Yemen and Mozambique had turned down the shipment.

The source said the France-based international inspection firm Bureau Veritas had inspected the quality and quantity of the shipment prior to the ship's departure from Kandla in line with a requirement laid down by the Ministry of Supply.

"Bureau Veritas has certified that the quality and quantity of the shipment are as required by the Ministry of Supply," said the source.

The shipment of wheat, bought at the price of \$191.50 per tonne, is the second shipment of Indian wheat to Jordan since 1992.

In 1991, Jordan bought more than 300,000 tonnes of Indian wheat.

Meanwhile, the sources said Minister of Supply Munir Sobar is planning to visit India in late October leading a delegation for talks with Indian government officials and businessmen on possible Indian supply of goods imported by the ministry.

According to the sources, the specifications of Indian wheat are very much in line with the requirements laid down by the Ministry of Supply and Jordan would like to explore the possibility of setting up long-term arrangements for imports of Indian wheat.

HRH addresses opening session of science conference Crown Prince Hassan urges combination of national resources with modern technology

RAMTHA (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday urged the Jordanian scientific community to enter into the global economy of the 21st century by pushing for scientific progress as well as preparing the ground for cooperation with other countries highly advanced in these areas.

"The coming century will witness strong economic competition between the Far East, Europe and the United States; and for its part Jordan, through its central location and continual contacts with these three blocs, should exert serious efforts to ensure progress," said the Crown Prince.

Addressing the opening session of the fourth annual Jordanian Science Week at Jordan University of Science and Technology



"so that it will become a strong fabric able to interact with the coming challenges."

(JUST), Prince Hassan said that scientists ought to embark on a serious study of the elements which have helped advance other nations to achieve success and to ponder strategies to gain increased levels of scientific progress.

"Scientists ought to seriously examine the current situation and any impediments to development and they should strive to understand future requirements in the light of current international, political, social and economic developments," he urged.

"These steps are a necessary prelude to directing national efforts towards sound planning and achieving a qualitative status in the 21st century," added the prince who described the week-long scientific activities as enhancements to the national scientific network.

sation of natural resources with reason aided by modern technology," he said.

"We need to be fully informed of our human resources and development and training thereof and we should give due attention to vocational and technical training to ensure qualified cadres who will be the country's real force," added the prince.

Prince Hassan named four basic elements as essential to production: natural resources, capital, advanced technology and management.

But he noted that the coming century demands further motivations including exemplary education, sound utilisation of technology and advanced scientific research.

He warned that "unless steps are taken to address the present exigencies facing the country we are bound to face complicated, unsurmountable issues accumulated in the future."

He urged decision-makers to first recognise problems facing the Kingdom that they may be prepared to discover appropriate solutions and further urged the scientific community to play an active research role in achieving such a goal.

Organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology in cooperation with JUST and the Jordanian Armed Forces, the week-long event called "Man and the Earth" will focus on applications of global resource research projects for the next four years in light of their potential economic implications and human resource requirements.

Azraq festivities highlight traditional culture

AZRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudah Monday night opened the fourth Azraq Festival for Culture and Arts, organised by Al Azraq Cultural Forum in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Al Azraq Folklore Troupe.

The minister also opened a book and photo exhibition depicting the local environment and the Hashemite family as well as a "charity bazaar" displaying a range of handicrafts, crafted by local women.

Festival director Shakib Shumari said the event aims at orienting the public with traditions, customs and the archaeological and tourist attractions in the Azraq region.

The Azraq region, which boasts tourist and historic importance, served as a base for the Great Arab Revolt and its leader the late Sharif Hussein.

The region contains the Azraq Wetland Reserve, 12 square kilometres in size, and the Shumari Wildlife Reserve which comprises 22-square-kilometres, both of which are run by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, which is engaged in endangered species protection.

The festival included poetry recitals by the local folklore troupe who performed dabkeh dancing and singing while the armed forces brass bands performed.

The festivities will be extended over four days.

Damage to school facilities and textbooks remedied

AMMAN (Petra) — The damage from recent rioting in southern Jordan resulted in losses to school facilities and textbooks estimated at JD 150,000.

The ministry is undertaking measures to ensure that the damage will not stand in the way of the opening of the 1996 school year. Minister of Education Munther Masri announced Tuesday.

"At least 10 schools and several warehouses storing textbooks in the south sustained damage resulting from the violence but local inhabitants and the Ministry of Education have joined forces to repair the injury and ensure the punctual opening of the 1996-97 school year on Saturday August 31," he said.

Added to the damage inflicted upon school buildings, the rioters were reported to have harmed maternal and child care centres, the Civil Service Consumer Corporation markets, private cars and other assorted properties during their protests in Karak, Maan, Tafleh and neighbouring areas.

The minister stated that nearly 1.4 million male and female students in public and private schools, including 120,000 who will join their first primary class, are going back to school on Saturday.

A total of 4,224 schools were scheduled to open last Saturday but the minister delayed the reopening of schools for an additional week to allow for necessary repairs and the distribution of textbooks to the schools.

Dr. Masri said that the total number of teachers in the entire school system is estimated at 48,500 and that they are all prepared to commence the school year from the first day of students attendance.

The ministry, in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), has filled vacant teaching posts in various schools following the secondment of 2,500 teachers to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, he said.

He maintained that the ministry is taking measures to deal with shortages in the number of teachers and that other teachers will be required to work overtime until substitutes can be hired.

The shortages are also to be mitigated by school supervisors, in certain cases, who will temporarily instruct students in fields in which they are equipped to do so, the minister said.

He added that the teachers have been at the schools since the mid-August and have received the required textbooks to distribute to their students.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Rahmeh confers with youth club

MADABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmeh Bint Al Hassan visited participants at the 1996 Sablat Al Hassan Programme. She was briefed on the programme and associated voluntary services which include building water reservoirs as well as visiting various areas of the Kingdom to assess its rich cultural and historical inheritance.

Princess Rahmeh demonstrated her appreciation for the participants' efforts and relayed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's greetings.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

- | FILM | FOLKLORE DANCES |
|---|--|
| * "Cry Freedom" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. | * Folklore dances by the Circassian Folkloric Troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. |
| AL AZRAQ FESTIVAL | SCIENCE WEEK |
| * Poetry recital by Jiryes Samawi and Habib Zayudi at 7:30 p.m.
* Concert by Fu'ad Hijazi, Nahawand, and Dirgham Basha at 8:30 p.m.
* Book, handicraft, and plastic art exhibition. | * Fourth annual science week at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid at 9:00 a.m. Transportation available at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00, 8:15, 8:30 a.m. |
| CONCERT | EXHIBITIONS |
| * Concert by Chico and the Gypsies and the Fiesta Mora at Philadelphia Hotel (with gala dinner) at 9:30 p.m. | * Works by artist Abeer Abu Joudih at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.
* Abstract (plastic) art by Lina Hajar titled "Relationship Between Man and Nature" at the Housing Bank complex gallery, until Aug. 31.
* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Fumum, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.
* Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Khalil Al Kofahi titled "From Jordan... Man and Charming Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 29.
* Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'sh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfati Art Gallery, Umm Utthina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 31. |
| THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE | |
| * Byzantine church — readings by Hayat Attieh accompanied by music played by Mounir Bashir and dance by Ruba Attieh and Natasha Attallah at Darat Al Fumum, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:00 p.m. | |



Russian soldiers get a rare taste of Chechen hospitality Monday when two Chechen rebel fighters (left) stopped by at their checkpoint in central Grozny to share a water-melon. Some of the soldiers even exchanged addresses (Reuter photo)

Russian, Chechen military leaders sign final truce

NOVYE ATAGI, Russia (R) — Russian and rebel military commanders in Chechnya said they had resolved their remaining differences Tuesday and signed a final ceasefire agreement brokered last week by Kremlin envoy Alexander Lebed.

Russian General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov told reporters in the Chechen village of Novye Atagi that a dispute over weapons seized from Russian soldiers would pose no further obstacle to the ceasefire agreement.

"The weapons seizure incident is virtually over. There will be no more obstacles to the continuation of our task," Gen. Tikhomirov said following the final agreement on what he called the "practical implementation of the Lebed plan."



An armed Chechen rebel passes by a burning gas pipe as he patrols the streets of central Grozny Monday. The Chechen rebels want an independent state but Moscow officials say the region must stay part of Russia (Reuter photo)

Separatist Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov said both sides had pledged to avoid any further breakdown in the peace process.

"We gave each other our word that no provocations would become grounds for a breakdown of negotiations," he said.

"Somehow in the end we got around to really acting on creating peace."

Gen. Tikhomirov said troops would resume pulling out of Grozny Wednesday after halting at the weekend when a group of soldiers had their weapons taken.

A military source told Interfax News Agency that the army withdrawal from Grozny should end around Sept. 1 — next Sunday. Withdrawal from some southern districts of Chechnya including Vedeno would be completed on Tuesday, Gen. Tikhomirov said.

A final army withdrawal from the region would be the subject of new talks in the future, he added.

Gen. Tikhomirov said that over the next four days a system of joint Russian-Chechen police patrols would be fully under way in Grozny, much of it in rebel hands since Aug. 6 offensive. The two sides would also begin work on exchanging prisoners.

Interfax quoted a rebel source as saying that, under the terms of the final agreement, the joint units would be deployed around Grozny around 6 p.m. (1400 GMT) Tuesday.

Meanwhile, President Yeltsin, on vacation near

Moscow, ignored requests for a meeting with his security chief Tuesday, casting new doubts over the peace process Alexander Lebed has launched in breakaway Chechnya.

"It is obvious that Boris Yeltsin has decided definitively to distance himself from the activities of Alexander Lebed in Chechnya until events there reach a final phase," Sevodaya newspaper wrote Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin has insisted that independence-minded Chechnya is an integral part of the Russian Federation and his reaction to Gen. Lebed's peace initiatives has been confused and contradictory.

Last Thursday, the president, in an interview broadcast hours before Gen. Lebed agreed a truce in the rebel region, said he was not satisfied with Gen. Lebed's work in Chechnya. Only late the following day did he voice support for Gen. Lebed's efforts.

His press spokesman said the interview — Mr. Yeltsin's first appearance for more than two weeks — had been recorded before Gen. Lebed agreed the truce. But it was not clear why it took the president more than 24 hours to change his mind.

The delay, and Mr. Yeltsin's vague holiday plans, have also prompted speculation about the health of the 65-year-old president, who had two heart attacks last year. Russian

and Western media said Mr. Yeltsin needed a heart operation.

Mr. Yeltsin's press office denied the rumours and, in the event, it was Mr. Yeltsin's wife Naina who went into hospital, checking in to Moscow's top clinic for a "planned operation" on a kidney.

Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Monday that Mr. Yeltsin would remain in control of affairs of state during his vacation at the Rus guesthouse, 100 kilometres from Moscow.

In a separate development, Russian Television said Monday prosecutors are to question Konstantin Pulikovskiy, deputy commander of troops in Chechnya, about the seizure of the regional capital Grozny by rebels on Aug. 6.

Officials from the Russian prosecutor-general's office and the main military prosecutor's office would question Gen. Pulikovskiy and other senior commanders, the television said.

Gen. Pulikovskiy was acting commander when the rebels attacked the city, sparking some of the worst fighting in more than a year. More than 400 Russian troops were killed in the battles which followed the rebels' assault, but the military was unable to dislodge the rebels, who took over most of the city.

Gen. Lebed has said the military knew about the assault in advance and

asked why its leaders did not try to prevent it.

Gen. Lebed blamed Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov for the troops' failure to prevent the attack, the second on the Chechen capital this year.

But Mr. Kulikov argued that he needed many more troops on the ground to hold the city and Interfax News Agency has quoted Kremlin sources as saying that President Boris Yeltsin told Mr. Kulikov to stay in his job.

Gen. Pulikovskiy had already been singled out for criticism over recent events in Chechnya before Monday's announcement.

With his troops surrounded in pockets in Grozny by the rebels, the commander threatened, last week, to unleash an all-out bombardment on the city, giving civilians 48 hours to escape.

Gen. Lebed stopped the threatened bombardment at the last minute and Defence Minister Igor Rodionov said Gen. Pulikovskiy had been given a dressing down over his ultimatum.

Gen. Rodionov said Gen. Pulikovskiy's actions had not been agreed with the Russian leadership, but that he was provoked by someone, without saying who that someone was.

Gen. Tikhomirov, the commander of troops who was on holiday when the crisis blew up, appeared to back Gen. Pulikovskiy's threat when he returned, but he has not been given a public reprimand.

China warns U.S. on Stinger missile sales to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan authorities were tight-lipped Tuesday over the United States decision not to delay a Stinger missile deal with Taipei, hoping a low-key position would not further irritate Beijing and create more trouble for Washington.

"We prefer not to comment on any ongoing arms deals," a Defence Ministry official said.

In a twin attack, China Tuesday stepped up pressure on Taiwan to allow direct shipping links with the mainland and denounced Washington for "encouraging Taipei's defiance by sanctioning arms sales to the island."

U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan have affected the "stability of the Taiwan Strait" and seriously violated agreements between Beijing and Washington, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He warned of "further damage" to roller coaster Sino-U.S. relations unless Washington refused Taiwan's request to purchase 1,300 Stinger missiles and 74 launchers.

"The U.S. sale of such a large quantity of advanced weapons to Taiwan amounts to support for the instigation of separatists in Taiwan to do what they want, and constitutes an obstacle for

the reunification of China," spokesman Shen Guofang said.

A Sino-U.S. agreement in 1982 bound Washington to stop its long term policy of arming Taiwan and made no distinction between offensive and defensive weapons, he said.

A Taiwan Foreign Ministry source said comment on the missile sale at this moment was unwise, since it would only anger China and cause problems for the United States.

On Monday, U.S. State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said the United States would not consider delaying the weapons sale to Taiwan.

Davies said the Defence Department had already notified U.S. Congress that it was preparing to sell Stinger missiles and other weapons to Taiwan to boost its defence capability.

Meanwhile, the official Xinhua News Agency slammed Taipei for turning down China's latest offer on direct shipping links between the island and the mainland, and blocking efforts towards reunification.

"The Taiwan authorities have continually put many obstacles in the path of the 'three direct exchanges' ... which clearly lay bare their attempt to create 'two Chinas' or 'one China and one Taiwan,'" the commentary said.

"This will do no good to Taiwan's long-term interests or to peaceful reunification," it added.

Last week, China promulgated a 15-point regulation on cross-strait shipping, which is currently forbidden by Taiwan.

The regulation gave control of the routes to Beijing and was cold-shouldered by Taipei, which then further annoyed China by sending its vice-president, Lien Chan to the Ukraine.

Kiev has diplomatic ties with Beijing, and not with Taipei.

China's last major effort to forge a reconciliation with Taiwan was the eight-point proposal put forward in January 1995 by President Jiang Zemin, which was also ignored by Taiwan.

The two sides split in 1949 after a bloody civil war, and Beijing has become increasingly enraged by Taiwan's efforts to increase its international standing and gain a seat at the United Nations.

Last year, diplomatic relations with the United States plummeted after Washington allowed Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui to make a "private" visit to New York state.

Top official in Japanese ruling party decides to resign

TOKYO (AFP) — New Party Sakigake Secretary-General Yukio Hatoyama decided Tuesday to quit the ruling Japanese party ahead of the establishment of a new broader-based alliance, a party spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr. Hatoyama conveyed his decision to Hiroyuki Sonoda, a senior official in Sakigake, a small centrist party led by former Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

Mr. Hatoyama, who was scheduled to meet with Mr. Takemura late Tuesday afternoon, has recently been distancing himself from the Sakigake leader and on Sunday said he did not want him to be among the founding members of the new party.

In remarks to reporters Tuesday morning, Mr. Hatoyama indicated that a breakthrough was unlikely in his talks with Mr. Takemura, who has been pushing for all of the 27 lawmakers from Sakigake to join the new party.

"There is a possibility that these talks will not produce any compromise. In that case, I will have to make a decision myself," he said.

Mr. Takemura is perceived to have a negative public image stemming from his 18-month stint as finance minister which included a controversial plan to use billions of dollars in public funds to liquidate failed housing loan companies.

Mr. Hatoyama, 49, has been trying to establish the new party as a third force in Japanese politics after the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the biggest party in the coalition, and the opposition New Frontier Party.

Prospective members include various lawmakers from Sakigake and the New Frontier Party as well as independents and members of the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP), the second-biggest party in the ruling coalition.

On Monday, Mr. Hatoyama caused a stir in LDP circles by saying his new party might consider a no-confidence motion against the cabinet of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Such a move could affect Mr. Hashimoto's strategy for dissolving parliament for the next elections, which must be held before mid-1997.

The new party to be set up by Mr. Hatoyama is widely expected to trigger a second round of political realignment, which started in 1993 when the LDP suffered a major split and lost power for the first time in 38 years.

Burundi embargo 'could spark more unrest'

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Burundi strongman Pierre Buyoya warned his African neighbours Tuesday that the embargo they imposed for last month's military coup could cause a humanitarian disaster and risk further unrest.

In an interview in the Belgian daily Le Soir, he also said he was ready to meet Hutu opposition leaders for talks to try to build a political consensus, but insisted rebel Hutus must first lay down their weapons.

The embargo was imposed by Burundi's neighbours following the July 25 seizure of power, orchestrated by the Tutsi-dominated army.

"If there is no state, there cannot be peace either," Major Buyoya said.

"Peace is what the countries of the region want to reestablish. But our neighbours, our partners, must assume their responsibilities," he added.

"I have noted that outside the country, people are beginning to question the wisdom of the sanctions which were inflicted on us," he said.

His comments came after he met Sunday with former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who is trying to mediate an end to the Burundi crisis.

Mr. Nyerere meanwhile called on Mr. Buyoya to open talks with the Hutu-led Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) in an interview with the French daily Le Monde.

The sanctions "show the junta that it must negotiate a political solution — for there is no military solution — with the party which won the 1993 elections" FRODEBU, he said.

Should the embargo prove ineffective however, he said there would be "widespread civil war" which would "drag in the Rwandan regime into the conflict and who knows, perhaps, other neighbouring countries."

More than 500,000 mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred in Rwanda in 1994, and Maj. Buyoya has said his coup was necessary to avoid a repeat genocide in Burundi.

Nevertheless, an estimated 150,000 people have been reported killed in the small central African country since Burundi's first Hutu president was killed in a failed coup in October 1993.

was prepared to meet anyone for talks, provided "they stop behaving like mass killers ... whose goal is to kill women, children and old people whose only mistake is to belong to such and such an ethnic group."

That process was open to the National Council for Democracy (CND) which is in armed opposition to the government, he added.

"We have not yet had contacts with the CND, but we will do so."

"The Hutus, quite legitimately, want power, but the Tutsis are afraid of it because there has been genocide here as in Rwanda," which has a similar ethnic mix.

More than 300 military are already in prison and will go before the court, like the others. Our aim is the end of impunity for everyone."

Maj. Buyoya reiterated his opposition to the idea of sending in an international African peacekeeping force, as suggested by a number of countries.

"It could create yet more chaos, provoke new militias who would combat the foreign forces. Don't underestimate our nationalism."

The economic embargo has isolated Burundi and choked off its main sources of foreign income, particularly for coffee and tea.

Petrol has been rationed while the prices of imported goods have risen.

Maj. Buyoya, who was Burundi's military leader until 1993, pledged to bring to justice all those behind the failed coup in which President Melchior Ndadaye was killed.

"The dossiers on the putschists are there. We have to advance them to the stage of trials," he said.

"More than 300 military are already in prison and will go before the court, like the others. Our aim is the end of impunity for everyone."

Maj. Buyoya reiterated his opposition to the idea of sending in an international African peacekeeping force, as suggested by a number of countries.

"It could create yet more chaos, provoke new militias who would combat the foreign forces. Don't underestimate our nationalism."

Christians protest as Manila, Muslim rebels finalise deal

MANILA (R) — Filipino Christians Tuesday vowed to fight a peace deal between the government and Muslim guerrillas through courts, force of arms and prayer as Manila prepared to seal a pact with the rebels.

Dozens of politicians and more than 5,000 followers crowded a convention centre in the southern city of Zamboanga for a protest while scores gathered outside with signs denouncing the accord as "deadlier than AIDS."

But Manila officials said there was no stopping the deal as government and rebel negotiators gathered in Jakarta to initial an accord ending a 24-year conflict in the southern Philippines which has killed some 125,000 people.

The two sides are to hold a final round of talks in the Indonesian capital capped by a ceremony Friday at which they will affix their initials to the peace agreement.

Indonesian President Suharto and senior diplomats from nations of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which helped broker the accord, are to witness the ceremony.

The formal signing will be in Manila on Sept. 2.

The accord will set up a Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development to supervise the development of 14 provinces on Mindanao Island.

Mindanao's five million Muslims regard the region as their ancestral homeland, although decades of migration from other parts of the Philippines means they are outnumbered by some 15 million Christians.

The council is to be headed by Nur Misuari, chairman of the rebel Moro National Liberation Front, and will serve as forerunner of a Muslim autonomous region to be installed in three years.

This has angered Christians who fear Muslim ascendancy in an area they now dominate.

The deal would end a war that has cost Manila 73 billion pesos (\$2.8 billion) since 1972.

"There is opposition, but this is in some areas only, and I believe the majority of the people are for this council," chief government negotiator Manuel Yan said in Jakarta.

Mr. Yan said last-minute details to be ironed out included arrangements for those guerrillas who would not be integrated into the Philippine Armed Forces and the disposal of their weapons.

Congresswoman Maria Clara Lobregat, spearhead of the Christian opposition, told reporters in Zamboanga that opponents of the pact would challenge it in the Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

"We are going to do this legally, not in violence," she said.

But Zamboanga city councillor Jaime Cabato said Christian vigilantes were busy arming themselves. He estimated their number at 5,000 and said they would not hesitate to use violence.

Others had more peaceful intentions. "We will continue our opposition through daily prayers and lighting of candles," said one protester.

Analysts said the accord would clear the way for the development of a largely impoverished but mineral-rich region whose growth has lagged behind other parts of the country.

President Fidel Ramos has pledged to channel a big chunk of funds into the area, and other officials expect Saudi Arabia and other OIC countries to support Mr. Misuari with investments.

"Seed money from the OIC will likely go into high visibility projects which will establish the council's credibility so Misuari hits the ground running," political analyst Alex Magno said.

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Diagnosis before treatment

THE THREE-HOUR meeting that His Majesty King Hussein had on Monday with all former prime ministers was clearly part of the Monarch's call for greater and deeper national dialogue in the wake of the recent unrest in some parts of the country. What adds to the importance of the latest round of national contacts, this time on the level of Jordanian statesmen, is the fact that the seven former prime ministers represent not only different points of views on what had happened but also on how we should proceed from here in order to heal the wounds and start anew on the road to full economic recovery and real progress. The essence of meaningful and fruitful dialogue is the voicing of various opinions with candour and with the least amount of inhibitions. Two former prime ministers, Ahmad Obeidat and Taher Masri, went as far as blaming the government for the crisis in Karak and other southern cities and publicly called for deep and thorough reforms in the country. At the same time, what we already know about Monday's discussions between the King and the former prime ministers reveals that all of them emerged from the encounter with full praise for the King's initiative and described their talks as most positive. This made the meeting all the more constructive.

We certainly need a continuing national dialogue across the board to consolidate what has already been done and accomplished in order to give these past achievements more grassroots support. In order for dialogue to be really constructive and fruitful, it needs to be genuine and conducted on a give-and-take basis. Above all, contacts to resolve any lingering national woes, be they economic, political or otherwise, need to be enlightened and based on factual information. The ascertainment of facts is fundamental and should be the first to be addressed and agreed upon before we can begin proper diagnosis and treatment. Dialogue between Jordanians need also to be transparent so that its benefits can filter down to all citizens.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Tuesday urged the government to speed up procedures to close the file on the incidents in southern Jordan so as to dedicate time and effort to the implementation of programmes contained in the King's letter of designation. Sultan Al Hanab said that the government is called on to spearhead efforts towards revitalising the peace process on all tracks, especially the Israeli-Palestinian track. Jordan has exerted efforts in this direction in the wake of the Cairo Arab summit and led a flurry of diplomatic activities to help the peace process to resume but these efforts were disrupted by the incidents in the south in the past weeks, noted the writer. By closing the file of these incidents the government can dedicate more time and effort to the peace process and towards helping the re-establishment of solidarity among Arab countries, a process it has successfully started in the past few weeks, continued the writer. He said a visit to Jordan and the region by the Japanese foreign minister who expressed his country's keenness on the resumption of peace negotiations in the region could give impetus to Jordanian efforts aimed at pushing these negotiations forward.

COMMENTING ON the situation in Chechnya, a writer for Al Dustour said that Russia's war against the Chechen people has partly been caused by differences within the leadership in Moscow. The power struggle and fight among the leaders in the Kremlin prompted some Russian generals to outbid one another in trying to stifle the resistance of the Chechen people and win popularity or even assume power in Russia, according to Mohammad Kawash. While the Chechen people who are fighting for their freedom from Russian domination have offered sacrifices and continue to fight heroically to defend their nation the Russian forces do not believe in their mission of suppressing the Chechens and are suffering because of low morale, said the writer. The Russian military threats to launch an all-out destructive war on the Chechen capital reflects weakness on the part of the Russian army and leadership and a defeat to the forces of aggression, he added. The writer expressed fear that the situation in Chechnya will remain volatile as long as the struggle for power in the Kremlin continues.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

The 1996 Democratic and Republican platforms

BOTH DEMOCRATS and Republicans have issued their 1996 party platforms. Platforms are not government policy; they are political documents that reflect the relative strengths of the political forces that compete for influence within each party. The party platforms are crafted to appease interest groups and appeal to important blocs of voters.

While not policy, by reflecting the power that groups can bring to bear on a party, platforms are useful indicators of what forces a candidate for the presidency will face as his administration attempts to lay out government policy.

The process of creating a platform begins with the party leadership developing a draft document. This initial draft is the product of internal discussion and compromise as the writers attempt to lay out positions that will satisfy both the party's candidate and key constituency groups.

The draft is then debated and, amended by a platform committee. Committee members are selected from each state, usually by loyalists of the presidential candidate who won the primary in that state. Some additional committee members are appointed by the Executive Committee of the national party.

In order to change the draft platform, a proposed amendment must receive one quarter of the votes of the committee for consideration. It then must be debated and passed by a majority of the entire committee.

Since delegates are pledged to be loyal to their candidate, it is extremely difficult to modify the draft. Exceptions, of course, do occur, especially when internal group loyalty on an issue outranks loyalty to the candidate, or when the party primary has resulted in several candidates winning different states. This can produce a divided platform committee.

Since Bill Clinton was unopposed in the 1996 Democratic primary and Bob Dole was largely in control of the overwhelming majority of Republican delegates, this year's platform drafts went largely unaltered. But on the Republican side, powerful anti-abortion forces, more loyal to their cause than to their candidate, were strong enough to deal a blow to Dole's effort to prevent language that moderated the Republican Party's strong anti-abortion platform section.

Israel as a centre-piece of U.S. policy: Both parties also routinely made anti-PLO references and declared Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In fact, from 1972 until 1984 the Democratic Party even called for moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

But 1988 marked a dramatic change in the Democratic Party platform process. That year Jesse Jackson won a sufficient number of delegates to insure a debate on Middle East and other platform issues. Since Arab Americans were a big component in Jackson's coalition, we were able to raise three Middle East platform planks. In an effort to stop the Jackson forces, the party offered a short platform that they hoped would discourage debate. The Arab Americans, however, were successful in forcing the platform negotiating team to accept our planks on Lebanon and U.S.-Gulf security interests.

While unable to win acceptance of the plank on Palestinian rights, our coalition of Arab Americans, African Americans, and progressive American Jews was able to force the first ever national debate at a convention on the Palestinian question.

In 1992, Arab Americans had no such strength in the party deliberations, but the Middle East plank

still required a compromise between factions in the American Jewish community. The result was a more modest statement than that issued in 1984.

A review of the 1996 Democratic and Republican parties' platform language on the Middle East reveals still further differences in the way the two parties speak about the issue as reflective of differences in their constituent bases.

American Jews are playing a more prominent role in Republican Party debates than previously, and in the Republican Party they are countered by Arab Americans or more moderate voices from within their own community.

Long considered a Democratic constituency, American Jews are increasingly becoming a bipartisan constituency. This is especially true in New York City where one-third of all voters are Jewish. There, very conservative Orthodox Jews have been registering as Republicans and supporting Republicans for state and local office.

Their conservative philosophy and alliance with Likud Party politics in Israel has made these Orthodox Jews natural partners with other powerful forces within the national Republican Party. Neo-conservative cold warriors, who were a key group in former President Reagan's foreign policy team, and pro-Israel right-wing Christian fundamentalists have had a major role in shaping Republican Party policy toward the Middle East.

As a result, this combination of forces has produced an increasingly strident pro-Israel bias (despite the Bush-Baker years in the White House) in Republican Party platforms — and the 1996 platform is no exception.

The 1996 Republican platform

While the 1996 Democratic platform contains a note that "normal U.S. relations with Syria depend on its ending support for terrorism," the Republicans list Syria together with Libya, Iraq, and Iran as "rogue states that threaten regional and international peace."

The platform is filled with profuse praise of Israel calling it "our one democratic ally in the Middle East with whom we share moral bonds and common strategic interests." The document then notes:

"Israel's most demonstrated strategic importance to the U.S. as our most reliable and capable ally in this part of the world is more critical than ever. That is why Israel's security is central to U.S. interests in the region. That is why Republican administration initiated efforts with Israel to pre-position military equipment; to conduct joint contingency planning and joint military exercises. That is why we look toward the greater integration of Israel into our regional defence planning and wish to explore ways to enhance our strategic cooperation."

The platform goes on to define the rest of the peace process in terms of the security it provides for Israel and the U.S., and states that "in that context, we support Israel's right to make its own decisions regarding security boundaries." It then criticises "the Clinton administration's attempts to interfere in Israel's democratic process."

On the matter of Jerusalem, the platform praises "the Republican Congress for enacting legislation to recognise Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel." It further pledges that "a Republican administration will ensure that the U.S. Embassy is moved to Jerusalem by May 1999."

The platform continues by praising Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein for having made peace with Israel, but makes no mention of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement whatsoever.

er.

The 1996 Democratic platform

The Democrats faced two pressures in drafting this year's party platform. They are holding the White House and have a responsibility for maintaining leadership in the peace process. At the same time they do not want Republicans to use Middle East issues to pull Jewish voters away from their party, yet feel a responsibility to reach out to both different voices within the American Jewish community and also Arab Americans with whom the administration has had a continuing dialogue.

The result of these deliberations produced a short, more moderate but still pro-Israel statement.

The 15-line section on the Middle East begins by praising President Clinton for overseeing "a remarkable record of achievement toward peace and security in the Middle East — the Israeli-Palestinian accords; the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan; new regional security and investment summits; Israel's increased acceptance throughout the Middle East and the world...."

It then pledges to support "efforts by the Clinton-Gore administration to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace among Israel and all its neighbours, including Lebanon and Syria."

The platform reaffirms the Democratic Party's commitment to "America's long-standing special relationship with Israel, based on shared values, a mutual commitment to democracy and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations. The United States should continue to help Israel maintain its qualitative edge."

And in a controversial move the platform simply repeats a line from its 1992 platform stating that "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and should remain an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths." This was done undoubtedly to appease the dominant pro-Israel forces in the party and limit the ability of Republicans to make Jerusalem an issue in the 1996 presidential campaign as both parties compete for Jewish votes.

But, in order to show respect for Arab and Muslim fears and the concerns of the Arab American community, the White House simultaneously issued a statement of clarification noting that this was "the position of the party but not the position of the president." The president's position, that statement goes on to say, is that:

"Jerusalem is one of the most sensitive and volatile issues in the peace process. I remain convinced that it is unwise for the United States to take actions that could be interpreted as prejudicing matters, such as Jerusalem, which Israel and the Palestinians themselves have formally agreed to discuss only in the context of direct, permanent status negotiations."

Arab American Democrats were a part of the discussion in framing this year's platform. While failing to change the language on Jerusalem, they were instrumental in getting the White House to issue its clarification. They were also able to help change the initial draft to include references to the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the peace process and in adding language at the end of the Middle East section stating the commitment of the administration to "working with our Arab partners for peace to build a brighter, more secure and prosperous future for all the people in the Middle East. To that end we seek to further enhance our ties with states and peoples in the Arab and Islamic World committed to non-aggression and willing to take risks for peace."

The black hole of Europe

By Gwynne Dyer

IT'S OFFICIAL: There is once again a Communist dictatorship in the heart of Europe. On August 23, the United States granted the status of political refugee to Zenon Poznyak, leader of the Belarussian Popular Front, the main opposition party in Belaruss.

"It's like the black hole of Europe," a Western diplomat said recently. He just meant that in terms of name recognition, Belaruss scores lower than Slovakia, lower than Slovenia, lower even than Moldova. Ten million well-educated, formerly prosperous people, and nobody can find it on the map.

But the ex-Soviet republic sandwiched between Poland, Ukraine, Russia and the Baltic states is also becoming the black hole of Europe in another sense. As of July 1, it became the only European country whose citizens need permission to travel abroad. Dozens of journalists have been beaten, opposition rallies have been crushed, and the jails hold hundreds of political prisoners.

Is all this so remarkable in a post-Soviet Europe where half a dozen other small countries — Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, etc. — verge on dictatorship? Yes, it is.

Belaruss is not just repressive. It is the old system in

full costume dress: State control of the economy, the KGB poking its nose into everybody's affairs (150,000 Belarussians, or 1.5 per cent of the population, work for the security services), and the old Soviet flag, only slightly modified, as Belaruss's national flag.

President Alexander Lukashenko fits the model too: A former collective-farm director who thinks in Stalinist stereotypes. "The president still views Belaruss as a big collective farm," said political commentator Leonard Shukin last year, "and he thinks he can extrapolate his farm-managing abilities to the whole country."

Lukashenko, 41, is just as ignorant, just as well-intentioned as the economic illiterates who tried to run the Soviet Union according to the maxims of Karl Marx (who never ran anything). And he shares their taste for bossing people around, too.

"You must not think I am a Hitler supporter," Lukashenko told the German newspaper "Handelsblatt" last November. But in the 1930s, he explained, "Hitler created a powerful Germany due to strong presidential power. And that will solve Belaruss's problems too."

"Consolidation is needed around one person or a group of people to survive. The one person being, of

course, Lukashenko.

A petty tyrant: a renescent police state; economic and social rules founded on nostalgia for the dead Soviet system: All this would be remarkable enough if Lukashenko had imposed it on the Belarussians by force. But the truth is that they did it to themselves. Two years ago, Lukashenko won over 80 per cent of the vote in a presidential election that was reasonably open and free.

It happened because Belaruss is not really a country. There is a Belarussian language, but it differs from Russian less than Jamaican English or Indian English differ from the English spoken in Glasgow. Besides, only about 10 per cent of the republic's population even speak Belarussian; the rest speak Russian.

There has never been a Belarussian state, either: The area has been ruled by Poland, Lithuania, or Russia, for over 300 years. And while Belarussian nationalism enjoyed an artificial popularity as a way of expressing opposition to Moscow's tyranny in the last decades of the Soviet Union, it quickly withered when it had to sell itself on its own merits.

The truth is that Belaruss is a western province of Russia whose status as a separate republic is an accident of history. It is really little different in composition, econ-

omy or attitudes from other regions in the Russian "red belt" that runs in an arc south of Moscow, east along the Ukrainian border, and then on into the Kuban and the northern Caucasus.

Those heavily agricultural regions mostly voted Communist in the Russian elections last June. If, through some bluke, they had wound up independent, they might well elect somebody like Lukashenko as president. As Belaruss actually did.

When the old Soviet Union was breaking up at the end of 1991, a group of Belarussian nationalist intellectuals seized the opportunity and declared Belaruss independent, but the honeymoon did not last long. With no strong nationalist sentiment to carry them through the subsequent time of economic hardship, the Belarussian population quickly decided their say.

Alexander Lukashenko was a maverick deputy in the Belaruss parliament who first made his name by smearing nationalist leader Stanislav Shushkevich with unsubstantiated charges of corruption. He ran for president in the 1994 election on a platform promising reintegration with Russia and a return to Soviet-style economic security — and four out of five Belarussians voted for him.

It is an impossible ambi-

tion. Russian President Boris Yeltsin formally signed a pact with Lukashenko last April promising a joint foreign policy, joint border patrols, the sharing of Belaruss military bases, and a common policy on currency, credit and budgets "with the aim of creating the conditions for a unified currency."

But Yeltsin, facing a presidential election, was just sucking up to the Russian nationalist right that longs to regain the empire's former territories, his real desire to merge Belaruss's devastated Soviet-style economy with the increasingly market-driven economy of Russia must be almost as slight as his wish to add millions of pro-Communist voters to the Russian electorate.

So Lukashenko is stuck trying to rejoin a state and a system that no longer exist — and as the nonsensical nature of his promises becomes ever clearer, he is driven to ever more repressive measures domestically. Private businesses, never numerous, are being hounded into oblivion, the only independent periodicals have to print in neighbouring Lithuania, and the jails are filling up.

We don't really need a Communist theme park where all the old abuses are lovingly repeated. We certainly don't need one with 10 million inmates. But that is what we are getting.



By Ali Kassab

Calamity and the utility

"IN EVERY life some rain must fall." "It never rains but pours." These two proverbs, which find their equivalents in virtually every language, say a lot about life. Combined together, they state that calamities will befall man. There is simply no escaping them. That much is a foregone conclusion.

Within this constant rule of life, however, there are two possible variations: One is that your life happens to be rolling along on a particularly high note and you are skipping about with a hey-ho and a hey-nonny-no dancing on your lips when disaster strikes, chasing the gay tune from your lips and sinking you in the doldrums. Alternatively, misfortune may choose to rear its ugly head, probably thinking that it would be funny, at a moment when things are already as low as they can get, and you are sitting there with a sunken heart and a furrowed brow wondering if life is worth it.

Now disasters are not all of the same nature or magnitude. Some are clearly worse and more trying for the soul than others. In an urban domestic context, one of the worst disasters is the failure of one of the three services, water, electricity, or the telephone. The reason why such a mishap, no matter how slight, ranks so high among the list of adversities is that you cannot simply call a repairman and have the malfunction fixed. You need to call the relevant utility, plead your case, and throw yourself at its mercy, armed as you are with nothing but infinite patience. The standard procedure for a Jordanian so afflicted is to scour the earth to find or acquire a relation employed by that utility, who would exercise his good offices in order to effect the repair.

Last week, however, when my telephone failed, I chose to depart from this time-honoured practice and put the system to the test. I looked up the relevant telephone number in the directory, reported the malfunction, and inquired when it may be fixed. The answer which I received was: "Bokra inshallah." For those readers who are not fluent in Arabic, these words, literally translated mean "Tomorrow, God willing." Translated contextually, the phrase generally tends to mean: "Go forth and multiply. I cannot be bothered to deal with you."

From past experience, I was certain that the latter meaning described the case, and I started composing in my mind the irate letter which I would address, on the conclusion of the morrow, to the superiors of this employee. As things happened, my expectations were proven wrong. The telephone was repaired as promised, and within the promised time.

Fine, it is not a new dawn for mankind; but it is a major step forward in the performance of the service-providing ministries. I feel bound to express my admiration of the dynamic, effective, and rapid pace of reform in the Ministry of Telecommunications, and my hope that other ministries will follow suit.

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Features

Restored Neolithic statues go on view in Washington

"THE COMMUTERS," one conservator calls the 8,500-year-old statues from Ain Ghazal ("The Spring of the Gazelles"), in Jordan. Their blank expressions remind her of the empty stares people adopt while waiting for the bus or riding the subway.

To others, the statues may look disconcertingly like the extraterrestrial creatures depicted in alien abduction stories. Whatever they remind you of, these objects project an eerie power, a power made all the more striking because they are among the oldest statues ever found.

The statues date to the seventh millennium B.C. and were discovered in two batches, in 1983 and 1985, on the outskirts of Amman; they are being restored in London and Washington, respectively. Work on the Washington group is nearly complete and the statues will go on display starting July 28, 1996, through April 6, 1997, at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. The restoration efforts in Washington are a great boon to Jordan because they cost the country nothing — the Smithsonian is paying the conservators' salaries. With the current climate of federal budget cutting, a Smithsonian source told BAR, it is extremely unlikely that the Smithsonian would undertake such a project now.

BAR enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at the statues as restoration work was winding up this spring. Our guide was Carol A. Grissom, head of the project and senior objects conservator of the Smithsonian's Conservation Analytical Laboratory. Around her lab were arrayed the statues themselves — some upright on specially created "feet" (actually epoxy putty placed inside the statue's hollow, stumpy torso), some lying flat on a spongy cushion atop work tables. Grissom joked that her team had nick-named individual statues after summer interns who had worked on the project.

To the right of the entrance to Grissom's lab stood the 4-foot by 5.5-foot crate in which the statues had been shipped en masse from Jordan to Washington. Because of the fragile state of the statues when

Statues discovered in Ain Ghazal area, east of Amman, are being restored at Washington's Smithsonian Institute. The British Museum to get two out of about 26 clay figures once restoration works are over. Biblical Art Review reports:

they were discovered, the excavators decided to transport the entire block of earth in which the shattered statues were found, rather than to extricate them fragment by fragment. They cleared the area along the top and sides, placing aluminium foil over the statues; then they placed a crate around the earth in which the statues were embedded, leaving about a foot of air between the crate and the earth; next they poured polyurethane foam into the gap to protect the remains during shipment (the aluminium foil kept the foam from seeping onto the statues); then they placed the top on the crate. The most delicate stage followed — carefully digging underneath the finds, pushing a board beneath the block as they went. The crate was lifted and flipped over. Extra earth, now on top of the crate, was removed and replaced with foam before the crate was closed for shipment.

The conservators in Washington and London therefore not only reconstructed the statues but also excavated them in the lab. Seeing where the pieces lay greatly helped Grissom and her team determine how they fit together. Although the statues had originally been buried face down, because the finds had been flipped over during packing, the statues lay face up in the crate.

The Washington lab received two single statues about 3.5 feet tall, two double-headed statues about 3 feet tall, a double-headed statue only 18 inches tall, and a head and an extra eye that conservators have not been able to associate with the other pieces. Light brown paint is still visible in spots on at least two of the faces.

The statues are made of soft, yellowish-white calcium carbonate — lime plaster. Grissom explained

that the people who made the statues heated the rock to between 650 and 900 degrees centigrade, allowed the rock to cool and then mixed it with water. The result was a wet paste, pliant enough to be workable but still tough and water resistant when dry. (A fragment immersed in water in the lab remained intact even after six weeks). This technique, Grissom noted, is a precursor to ceramic technology, which explains the name applied to the civilisation of that era — Pre-Pottery Neolithic B. The same technique was used to make walls and floors. Unfortunately, so many trees were consumed in the fires required to heat the limestone that deforestation led to the civilisation's down-fall, according to some specialists.

Before making the statues, the ancient sculptors first fashioned a crude model of a torso from reeds and then spun string tightly around reeds and placed them where the head would go; the plaster was then applied to the reeds and string and worked into the desired shape. The reeds and string deteriorated long ago, leaving the hollow plaster shell vulnerable to collapse. Grissom pointed out the striations left by the string and reeds on the insides of several of the statue fragments. To complete their handiwork, the Ain Ghazal sculptors highlighted the eye sockets and irises on the statues with black bitumen.

Grissom next showed us three plaster burial masks from about 7000 B.C., also recovered from Ain Ghazal, but from a different pit from the one in which the statues were found. They, too, will be exhibited at the Sackler. Like the statues, the masks were found face down. The local practice (similar masks have been recovered in Jericho, about 30 miles to the southwest) was to allow

dead bodies to deteriorate; after the jaw had decomposed, the skull would be removed and a mask placed over it. Grissom noted that the masks were made of a stronger plaster than the statues.

After our visit to the Smithsonian lab, we spoke to Kathryn W. Tubb, who leads the joint British Museum/University of London Institute of Archaeology team restoring the 1983 finds. Five statues that her group restored between 1983 and 1988 have been returned to Jordan. The London team resumed its work last September, and, in return for their efforts, the British Museum will be allowed to keep two of the restored statues.

Tubb believes there are 26 statues (or parts thereof) among the 1983 group, but because they are in worse condition than the Washington group she cannot be sure of the exact number. Tubb compared her task to completing "a humongous jigsaw puzzle." The London group contains only single-headed figures with more paint than the Washington statues and with green copper ore around the eyes. The London remains are thought to be, based on radiocarbon dating, about 150 years older than those in Washington. The London and Washington teams are in general working along the same lines, though they are using different materials to hold the fragments together. Tubb and Grissom keep in close contact and have collaborated on a number of scientific papers on the statues.

Tubb's team has three more years to complete its work, but she warns that "the material may not be as compliant as that." She explains, "We have a lot of delicate unpicking to do." — Biblical Archaeology Review



"We'll have you back together again in no time," Carol A. Grissom (centre) and Harriet Beaubien fit together the upper and lower halves of one of the Ain Ghazal statues during restoration work at the Smithsonian's Conservation Analytical Laboratory.

Kabariiti: Jordan will remain lifeline for Iraqis

(Continued from page 1)

"Oppressing the other opinion and denying the right to protest against hunger and misery do not solve the problem. It can only make things worse," said the statement that was issued after a meeting attended by 21 opposition deputies.

The government's recognition on Monday that the majority of the detainees have been

released because they were found innocent of sabotage charges means that the government has resorted to oppressive measures on purpose, not to mention the way the arrests took place at night...that was in contradiction with the prevalent laws, the Constitution and human rights charters and conventions," the statement asserted.

"Therefore we call on the government to release all the detainees and concentrate

its efforts on dialogue, construction and reform as well as fighting corruption," the statement added.

Authorities have released 112 detainees in the past week. Between 80 and 100 people are believed to be in detention. A precise figure is still not available. At least five journalists are still among those detained, and they could probably face charges of involvement in or instigation of the riots.

Israel approves settlement expansion

(Continued from page 1) agreements, they are planting mines on the road to peace by containing the settlement activity, confiscating lands and building bypass roads," he said. "This government has one aim, to destroy the peace process."

Mr. Erez also expressed dismay at the "international silence" about Mr. Netanyahu's actions.

"This silence worries us because they are treating Israel as a state above the law and doing nothing against Mr. Netanyahu's policies (which) mean the destruction of the peace process."

The Netanyahu government, which took office in June, lifted a freeze on Jewish settlement building in the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the previous government in 1992.

Israel's housing ministry on Aug. 20 said that it was drafting a plan to approve construction of 5,000 new homes in the West Bank. It was not immediately clear if the Kiryat Sefer project was part of that plan. Housing ministry officials were not available to comment. Kiryat Sefer is located west of Ramallah and just east of Israel's pre-1967 Middle East war border with the West Bank.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat meanwhile condemned the demolition of the Palestinian Community Centre as a new threat to the beleaguered peace process and called on foreign govern-

ments to press Israel to halt its "attacks on East Jerusalem."

Police clamped a pre-dawn curfew on the neighbourhood and then hiked a bulldozer over the Old City walls to demolish the 120-square-metre structure, which a city official said had been "built without authorisation and had been empty for some time."

A police spokesman said the demolition was ordered because the building had been "financed by the Palestinian (National) Authority" in violation of Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreements that the PNA may not carry out any official activity in the city. But a spokesman at the Orient House, the PLO's unofficial headquarters in East Jerusalem, said the demolished building was part of the Burj Al Laqlaq Society which provided services to handicapped persons and the elderly and was used as a kindergarten and children's center.

"Burj Al Laqlaq operated with Israeli authorisation and has no links whatsoever to the Palestinian National Authority," Fahim Kilani said.

Mr. Arafat responded to the demolition by calling representatives of the European Union, Russia and Arab states into his Gaza City office to complain about Mr. Netanyahu's campaign against Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

"Arafat gave them letters for their leadership appealing

for help to put an immediate halt to these Israeli attacks in East Jerusalem which are threatening the peace process," said Nabil Abu Rdaina, a top Arafat aide.

Palestinian groups in Jerusalem also protested the unannounced Israeli move and the police treatment of local residents during the operation.

"While curfews have been common in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, they are almost unheard of inside the boundaries of 'annexed Jerusalem' where Israeli law is supposed to apply equally to all inhabitants," said a statement released by the Palestinian Centre for the Study of Non-Violence.

The group said the destroyed community centre had been funded by international groups and foreign embassies and served as one of the only recreation spots for children in the crowded Old City quarter.

About 100 people held a protest march through the Old City, led by Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Korei and Hanan Ashrawi, a minister in the PNA cabinet and deputy from East Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat meanwhile called an unprecedented meeting for Wednesday of top Palestinian leaders living in the territories to discuss Mr. Netanyahu's policy on East Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and other "recent developments."

Egypt, Syria discuss peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

exchange, Syrian officials said.

Tension has increased between Syria and Israel, with reports of Syrian troop movements in Lebanon and missile test-firing by both countries.

The Israeli daily Yediot Aharanot reported Tuesday that the army was anxious and confused by Syrian troop movements toward the Israeli border, though Israeli leaders have sought to play down concerns.

In Paris, diplomats said U.S., Israeli and Egyptian officials met to discuss the Middle East peace process and a proposed regional economic conference in Cairo.

In an apparent confusion, the U.S. embassy had said on Monday the discreet meeting had already taken place, but the Israeli and Egyptian embassies said it began on Tuesday.

"We were told that it had happened. We don't know," a spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy said.

"It's under way now," an Egyptian embassy spokesman said.

The secretive talks were believed to bring together U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross, Dore Gold, an adviser to

Mr. Netanyahu, and Osama Al-Baz, one of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's advisers.

Officials of all three embassies said the talks, at a time of great uncertainty in the Middle East peace process, were being arranged directly by their capitals, effectively bypassing the missions. Mr. Ross held consultations with French officials on Monday, but the U.S. spokeswoman said he was not in touch with the embassy.

The talks were expected to focus on the Middle East economic conference planned in Cairo in November which has been called into question by frictions between Israel and the Arabs since the election of Mr. Netanyahu.

President Mubarak showed signs of reluctance about the conference last week, saying many Middle East states would not attend unless Israel ensured the peace process moved forward.

Mr. Netanyahu, apparently shaken by Mr. Mubarak's suggestion that he might cancel the summit, later phoned the Egyptian president to tell him that talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation would resume soon.

Iraqi hijackers surrender

(Continued from page 1)

threatened to blow up the aircraft unless it was refuelled and allowed to take off.

The Sudan Airways office in Amman said most of the passengers were Sudanese going to Jordan for medical treatment.

"Most of the Sudanese passengers on board were coming to Jordan for medical treatment," Justo Baba, station manager of Sudan Airways office in Amman, told Reuters.

He said the plane had 186 listed passengers and 13 crew — including 23

Iraqis, 14 Jordanians, one Syrian, one Saudi and one Palestinian. The rest were Sudanese.

Mr. Baba said he was not certain where the Iraqi passengers were heading.

A number of anxious relatives have been phoning the airline's office to inquire about the fate of the plane, Mr. Baba said.

The hijackers had demanded to be flown to Heathrow, London's principal airport, but British authorities rerouted it to Stansted, where all hijackings have been taken since the 1970s when facilities were set up there.

Kuwait sizzles in torrid summer misery

By Inal Ersan
Reuters

KUWAIT — "I think God will send us to paradise. He would not put us in hell twice," said Al Sharqawi Ahmad, an Egyptian labourer sweltering in Kuwait's summer sun.

"Your excellency can fry an egg on my head," he told a reporter, pointing to a sweating, hairless spot on the top of his head normally protected by a white cloth soaked in water.

Sizzling Kuwait City is the hottest capital in the Gulf in midsummer, with temperatures in the shade regularly over 50 degrees centigrade (122 Fahrenheit).

Kuwaiti officials say that from June to September the oven-like climate makes their city the hottest in the world and creates a lifestyle supremely dependent on the air conditioner.

"It's like a sauna" — daily and free of charge — civil servant Najla Al-Fawzan said.

Residents have developed precautions, many involving cars, to beat the worst effects. Newcomers learn not to touch any vehicle or anything metal left for long in the sun. Some drivers use gloves to protect against blistering steering wheels.

Motorists are told not to leave any living thing — from babies to pets to potted plants — in cars parked outdoors because they will start to bake. And going barefoot on hot sand will result in a trip to the doctor.

"My baby looks as red as beetroot after a five-minute drive to market in the summer," said Huda, a Syrian housewife.

A resident who had to push his American car after it broke down badly burned his hands on the bodywork's hot metal and need-

ed medical attention. The best swimming pools in Kuwait are chilled, not heated. And doctors warn people not to swim in daylight to protect themselves from potential skin cancer and blisters.

Trying to take a cold shower is no solution — the chances are that both hot and cold taps will spew out scalding water heated by the sun's onslaught on rooftop water tanks.

Night brings little relief to anyone outdoors. Downtown, heat stored up in the day radiates powerfully out of concrete skyscrapers directly onto sweating pedestrians. In the desert, dust and intense heat combine to form a sweaty, itchy hell.

"The burning, fiery wind seems to scorch the very eyeballs," British diplomat Harold Dickson wrote in the desert in 1936.

But despite the country's annual grilling most of the 1.8 million residents manage to live comfortably thanks to round-the-clock air conditioning and the extreme aridity in summer.

Houses, cars, buses, shops, a pedestrian bridge — even army tanks and battle vehicles — are air conditioned. Car purchases are often decided on their air conditioning power.

Sunstroke deaths are rare as nationals wear sensible, loose white robes and headcovering to curb the sun's rays.

And while Kuwait's temperatures are higher, other Gulf states often endure equal discomfort because the greater humidity of their climates raises the head felt by the body.

Relief comes in winter when Kuwait's climate of extremes makes it the coldest Gulf capital, with temperatures below 10 degrees centigrade (50 Fahrenheit). The importance of air

conditioning is reinforced in very rare summer power blackouts, a disaster that happened for several days in the mid-1970s and again once in the mid-1980s.

The universal solution is to abandon home or office and sit in air conditioned vehicles with the engine running. In the blackouts parents had to drive heat-distressed young children around for hours in the evening to try to get them to sleep.

Most Kuwaitis spend the summer abroad to avoid the hottest months of July and August — only to complain about the heat in London and Paris, where air conditioning is less common.

Asian and Arab outdoor labourers are not so lucky. They usually work eight hours a day, sometimes in direct sunlight.

"We live in an oven. It's so hot it burns our face and there is no relief until late at night, and only then if there is a breeze off the water," said a Bangladeshi fisherman in a corrugated iron shanty village at Doha north of the city.

Some doubt official temperatures. A Canadian was shocked to see a private gauge read 58 degrees centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) on a July day when the official reading was just 47.2 (117).

But Kuwait does not set a temperature at which businesses and state offices must shut. Labour law says work should stop only in unspecified "extraordinary circumstances."

And to some, heat means profit. Haji Amin, an Iranian grocer who stays indoors for most of his day, chuckles: "I sell more ice cream, soft drinks and mineral water in the summer."

Jordan separates politics from economics in dealing with Iraq

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan, which openly accused Iraq of fomenting the bread riots in the kingdom, steered clear of cutting off ties in an effort to maintain vital trade links with its neighbour.

The government maintains that Iraq was behind the Aug. 16 and 17 riots in four southern cities.

The riots came after the government withdrew bread subsidies following International Monetary Fund recommendations.

Baghdad called the Jordanian charges "lies calculated to implicate Iraq in Jordan's internal problems."

Amman is expelling an administrative employee of the Iraqi embassy at Amman and refusing to accredit the embassy's new first secretary. The authorities also asked Baghdad not to extend the tour of duty of an embassy press attache.

Jordan wants to keep exporting goods to the Iraqi market, Jordanian politicians say.

"It is clear that Jordan wants to protect its economic ties with Baghdad, especially its exports which Jordanian industries depend on," a Jordanian economic official told AFP.

"Jordanian industrialists and merchants, who have witnessed a deterioration of Jordanian-Iraqi relations for more than a year, have asked the government to separate politics from economics so as not to affect their businesses," the official said.

"The government mustn't overreact to Iraq because Jordan would not be able to take it economically, as it has not yet penetrated Gulf and Western markets," industrialist Osman Nashashibi told AFP.

Mr. Nashashibi said that his factory "exports 20 per

cent of its production of computer paper to Iraq, as authorised by the United Nations."

"When we get an order from Iraq, we rush it through so as not to risk getting caught up in political developments that could affect our exports," he added.

Official figures show that between 1990 and 1991, 75 per cent of Jordan's industrial exports went to Iraq, despite a U.N. embargo in force since the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Exports have since fallen, and some industries, created especially for the Iraqi market, have closed or are suffering badly," a chamber of industry official said.

Industries making detergents and foodstuffs, especially edible oil, are in crisis. Fifty per cent of their products went to Iraq.

Other factories are being

liquidated, such as a box factory, a textile factory and a factory that made polypropylene bags, the official said.

Pharmaceuticals have also been hurt, especially the "Arab Centre for Pharmaceutical Industrialisation," a factory which exported 80 per cent of its goods to Iraq.

Jordan also imports 70,000 barrels of oil a day from Iraq.

Payment for the oil is subtracted from Iraq's debt, which has risen to \$1.2 billion.

Because it is difficult for Iraq to pay, the Jordanian government guarantees exports to its neighbour.

But in January, Amman halved these guarantees, which today come to \$200 million a year.

Israel capital inflows drop sharply in first half of this year

TEL AVIV (R) — The risk of shekel devaluation virtually halted borrowing of foreign currency by Israeli residents in the first half of the year, cutting capital inflows to \$2 billion from \$5.3 billion in the same period last year, the Bank of Israel said.

But there was a continuing high level of investment by foreigners in Israeli companies, according to figures compiled by the supervisor of foreign currency.

Capital inflows of foreign residents totalled \$1.4 billion in the six months ended June compared with \$1.1 billion. Such investments were not speculative because they were not going into shekel interest-bearing accounts, the central bank said.

Capital inflows of Israelis

totalled only \$600 million in the first half of the year, compared with \$4.2 billion in same period last year. Foreign currency borrowings by Israelis through local banks totalled \$600 million compared with \$3.4 billion.

The Bank of Israel said that this was probably linked to the fact that the shekel's exchange rate against the basket of currencies had dropped almost to the lowest point of the fluctuation band and there was a greater risk of devaluation.

The shekel can fluctuate in a trading band of 7.0 per cent above or below a slope designed to devalue the Israeli currency at six per cent a year against the basket of key currencies. The market believes the central bank would intervene if the

shekel-basket exchange rate were to reach the bottom of the trading band.

The central bank figures show that financial investments of foreign residents totalled \$800 million in the first half of the year compared with \$400 million in the same period last year. About half of this sum were investments in shares offered by Israeli companies abroad.

In addition, foreign residents invested a net amount of \$200 million in Israeli shares traded on the secondary market abroad and a similar amount in shares traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Foreign residents invested \$700 million in the first half of the year in non-financial assets, similar to the amount invested in the same period last year.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 28 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can complete practical tasks which await your attention today and thereby you can gain the prestige and success which you desire through your career activities. Steer clear of a new contact which demands too much.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Tackle small details today which still have to be completed in order to gain your personal aims in the days ahead. Relax later this evening with your loved ones and you can have a pleasant time with them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Give that secret plan more time and attention today and you will be able to complete whatever assignment you have been given. Study whatever arises and you'll get a great opportunity to make any career activities successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Keep talking with close friend today until you have the matter nicely solved and thereby you can resolve any conflict which has arisen. Confer with a financial expert later tonight and make some plan of action for your funds.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get business matters completed today and be careful not to irritate your mate or you could experience quite a significant amount of difficulty. Enjoy amusements later tonight with clever friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some new outlet could bring you much progress today so proceed with caution so that there aren't any complications prevalent in the days ahead. Accept conditions you can do nothing about and thereby you can have peace of mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can handle business matters with others very well today and thereby discover that you can gain the prestige which is important. A close good friend can help you with your career activities, so consult with this person.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Complete arrangements with a fellow associate today and then be careful not to jeopardise your position monetarily with this individual. Later this evening you can speak to a bigwig and ask for his or her advice on business matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The morning today is good for finishing a project and then you can relax for some fun with close friends. Be alert to new outlets you may profit from in the days ahead and thereby you can put away some funds for another time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take care of some personal difficulty today or you will discover that if you let it linger for sometime you will not be able to control the circumstances. Try to gain better benefits from your daily career activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Keep trying to improve today the situation at home so that you are able to diffuse and difficulties which could be present. Meet with influential people later this evening to get your ideas across for some new project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle practical communications today and you will receive recognition from some authority figure for your ability to manage any complex situation. Take care not to disturb your family in any manner later this evening.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

IMF urges Turkey to implement stability programme

ANKARA (R) — Turkey should implement a broad stabilisation programme to pave the way for rapid, sustainable growth, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a new report on the country's troubled economy.

"The government should act quickly to implement a major front-loaded fiscal adjustment combined with structural reforms," the IMF said in a report obtained by Reuters Monday.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's Islamist-led government, formed in late June, has yet to unveil any comprehensive stabilisation package or to agree to fresh talks with the IMF for a stand-by arrangement.

"Turkey has the potential for rapid growth if it follows appropriate policies," the report said.

Turkey's previous efforts to speed up privatisation, rehabilitate loss-

making pension institutions and local administrations, and reform the taxation system have failed to produce any major progress so far.

"Turkey is likely to receive strong support from the international community if and when it is ready to undertake such an effort," the report said.

The Turkish economy is struggling with a public deficit of more than six per cent of its gross national product and inflation of around 83 per cent.

Months of political turmoil and lack of a multi-year reform programme delay improvement in the economy which has been showing only an erratic growth pattern in the past decade.

Turkish government officials and central bankers rule out any possibility of a financial crisis in the short term, pointing to the country's high foreign currency reserves, at

around \$16 billion.

However, the IMF said past experience showed reserves could be depleted quickly by an adverse change in market sentiment.

"The weaknesses in the banking system that became apparent during 1994 — such as inadequate capitalisation for the circumstance in Turkey, lending to related parties, and excessive net open positions in foreign exchange — remain potential trouble spots," the IMF report said.

"The banking system could face difficulties in adapting to a low inflation environment and the authorities should redouble their efforts to strengthen bank supervision and enforce prudential requirements," it added.

Three Turkish banks collapsed in the first half of 1994, shortly after a severe financial crisis

shook the economy.

The government granted full guarantee of deposits to save the banking system as part of its comprehensive austerity measures which later brought stability to financial markets.

The IMF said the guarantee should be phased out gradually "as soon as conditions permit."

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Child labour has soared in the Gaza Strip since Israel closed the territory in February, forcing thousands of pupils to quit school to help support their families, a Palestinian expert has said.

"Before the closure, 6,000 to 7,000 children between the ages of eight and 15 were working in the Gaza Strip, now the figure is 10 to 11,000," said Fadel Abu Hein, a child psychologist and adviser to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Mr. Abu Hein said that a study he conducted for UNICEF on the impact of the Israeli closure showed that some 40 per cent of school-age children had been forced to give up classes and take menial jobs since February.

Under the closure, imposed as a security measure following a spate of suicide bombings by Palestinian militants, Israel revoked permits for tens of thousands of Palestinians to hold day jobs inside the Jewish state.

Stricter security along the Gaza-Israel frontier has prevented thousands more people from reaching jobs they had held illegally in

Israel.

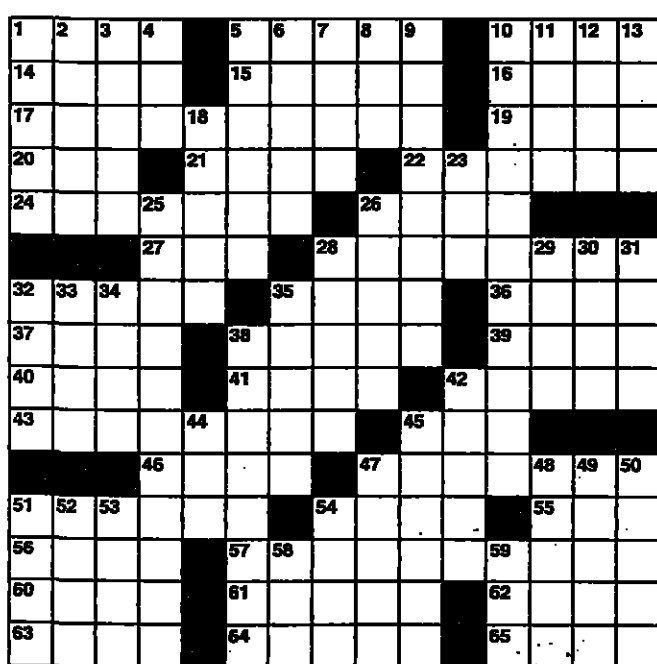
Mr. Abu Hein said that for his study he questioned children in 300 selected families from districts around the Gaza Strip, which has a population of around 800,000.

"Because of the poor economic situation in Gaza caused by the closure, we found that of the 300 children, 44 per cent had quit school to work," he said. Most of these children had fathers who had lost jobs inside Israel.

Israeli authorities have begun easing the closure, authorising 40,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to hold day jobs in Israel.

THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson

- ACROSS**
- Yemen's capital
 - Oaths of old
 - Promote successfully
 - Goddess of discord
 - Cordage fiber
 - Kind of bargain
 - Parade confetti, at times
 - Disembark
 - Volcanic fallout
 - Trials
 - Exquisitely fragile
 - Wobbles
 - Move rapidly and nimbly
 - 1040 supplier
 - More insubstantial
 - Confidence games
 - Fiber source
 - Icelandic literary work
 - Soliloquy start
 - Biblical weapon
 - Fountain throwaway
 - Tangy fish sauce
 - Steal a look
 - Dispensed as charity
 - Take the lead
 - Weekday abbr.
 - Versifier
 - Debarcation
 - Pursued
 - No great shakes
 - Overly
 - Lima land
 - Guard's post
 - Spoken
 - Wide-eyed
 - Glade
 - "Kemo" (Tonto)
 - Affirmatives
 - Part of P.T.A. abbr.



- DOWN**
- ease (make comfortable)
 - Greet the day
 - Cubbyhole
 - Request
 - Oversights
 - Revolutionary general
 - Amo, —, amat
 - Party nosh
 - Young plant
 - Instant
 - Spirit
 - 40-day period
 - Baronet's spouse
 - Pitchers
 - Ready follower
 - Cornerstone
 - content
 - Steak cut
 - Like onion rings
 - Adored one
 - Adams or McClung
 - Author Ayn
 - Men-only affair
 - Singer Natalie
 - Sanction misdeeds
 - Sheepish comment
 - Indianapolis, e.g.
 - pass go
 - Weed remover
 - Converts into pulp
 - Actress Sondra —
 - just one of those things
 - Coward and Harrison
 - Late bridge maven
 - Naval noncoms: abbr.
 - Wife of Zeus
 - Hebron native
 - R.R. terminals
 - Fill, with wonder
 - Harem room

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghill

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THRAW
KULCC
CLAYKE
UNGATH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ON A _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: RURAL FRAME DISARM CORNER
 Answer: What the lawyers followed to keep in shape — "FIRM" RULES

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n' Jeff

Toukan
law on
securities
introduce
before on
this year

Join

FOR RE
 3 bedrooms apt
 Shmearni, sec
 220 sq. m.
 3 bedrooms in
 area, third floor.
 Abdoun Real
 Tel: 810605 -
 Fax: 8106

Happy D.
 Diner
 Soups & Salads
 OPEN DAILY
 10 A.M. - 1
 Tel. 8571
 Fax 8985
 Umm Uthm
 behind Sam
 Hotel

Toukan: New law on securities to be introduced before end of this year

AMMAN (Petra) — In order to develop the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and encourage foreign investments in the stock exchange, the government will introduce a new law on securities before the end of 1996, according to a statement by AFM Director-General Umayya Toukan.

"The new law which runs in conformity with the government's economic reform programme is being drawn up by a group of specialists from the AFM, the World Bank, legal consultancy offices in Jordan and local experts," Dr. Toukan said Tuesday.

The new law will provide new instruments to organise the AFM's functions, supervise the circulation of securities, control the AFM's operations and issue licences for the offices that provide financial services outside the banking systems, according to Dr. Toukan.

"We started planning for the new law in 1992 because the country lacks economic legislations capable of handling, developing and supervising the AFM operations and it is hoped that the new law would address imbalances and plug loopholes in the present law," added Dr. Toukan.

The new law will create a securities corporation which will be an independent government agency charged mainly with the task of re-organising, monitoring and developing procedures connected with securities and their marketing in Jordan, he added.

The law also provides for the creation of an institute specialising in securities to train cadres working in the financial markets and a special court to settle disputes connected with securities.

Dubai bets on business boom from Iraq's oil-for-food deal

DUBAI (AFP) — Dubai, the Gulf's trade hub, expects a boom in business when Iraq gets the green light to start buying food and medicine under its oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Officials and company presidents told AFP that Dubai will play a major role as a way station for goods sent to Iraq.

"Instead of making orders (elsewhere) and waiting for them, they will be able to take direct delivery of the goods" from Dubai, said Ahmad Al Banna, director of research at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"You find all kinds of goods in Dubai and at competitive prices," Dubai

traders import in large quantities," Mr. Banna said. In 1995, around \$20 billion in non-oil goods were imported, exported or re-exported from Dubai.

Dubai, one of the seven member states of the United Arab Emirates, "has huge warehouses, ports and an airport allowing it to meet the demands of neighbouring countries," he said.

"In the past there was trade between Iraq and Dubai and these ties will without doubt be reestablished if there is a total or partial lifting of the embargo" imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said.

Iraq struck a deal with the United Nations on May 20 allowing it to export \$2 bil-

lion worth of oil in return for badly needed food and medicine but under strict international controls which are still being worked out.

One-third of the proceeds will finance U.N. operations in Iraq and a U.N. fund to provide war reparations.

Iraq has already contacted Dubai about the easing of the embargo, renting two tug boats from the Dubai-based Mubarak Shipping Company needed to help ships move through the main Iraqi ports at Umm Qasr and Basra.

"The two tugs have arrived in Iraq," according to the company's director, Jumaa Mubarak, who added that his firm was

"ready to transport goods to this country when the (oil-for-food) accord is finalised."

He said that Dubai-based transport companies will have a big role to play in shipping goods to Iraq even if the imports come from other cities, since the emirate is the regional hub for the world's freights.

Dubai and its free zone at Jebel Ali, the largest in the Middle East, serve other countries in the region with large cargo ships and traditional wooden dhows.

This suits Iraq which "lacks transfer facilities in its ports," which were damaged during the 1991 Gulf war and deprived of equipment because of the embargo, Mr. Jumaa said.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR 27/08/1996										
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.4	1.34	26	860	132360	228.50	227.00	-1.50
1.110	1.080	ARAB BANK	12.4	1.34	26	860	132360	228.50	227.00	-1.50
2.700	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	5.0	6.83	3	950	2078	2.19	2.20	+0.01
5.740	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.6	2.94	6	2650	12400	4.57	4.70	+0.13
2.840	2.890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.69	6	6500	8913	9.25	9.30	+0.05
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.3	0.00	14	4280	15228	3.59	3.60	+0.01
4.120	3.000	JOR. INV. P.V. BANK	10.5	0.00	2	141	424	3.00	3.05	+0.05
3.430	2.310	UNION AL-HIL (BETTER)	1.5	6.15	7	980	2303	2.87	2.84	-0.03
1.050	2.240	AMMAN BANK INT.	9	0.00	15	23700	5700	2.29	2.24	-0.05
9.830	4.500	AMMAN BANKING CO.	23.9	0.00	1	100	463	4.60	4.63	+0.03
1.880	1.000	PHILADELPHIA INV. CO.	9	0.00	7	3730	3997	1.07	1.10	+0.03
MARK SECTOR TOTALS										
2.910	2.150	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	9.13	1	500	1095	2.19	2.19	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
1.800	1.480	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.6	7.84	41	53900	83067	1.54	1.53	-0.01
6.080	4.650	ARAB TRAVEL & TOURS	16.3	3.13	2	80	384	4.75	4.80	+0.05
2.800	2.050	SHIPPING LINES	9.2	4.17	1	230	17013	9.25	9.30	+0.05
2.170	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	30	11380	13445	1.18	1.18	-
1.380	1.750	WIL. EAST BAZELS	79.3	0.00	2	2230	4140	1.83	1.84	+0.01
1.380	1.400	AMMAN SECURITIES	9	0.00	30	3850	1862	1.00	1.00	-
2.430	1.700	UNITED CO.	9	5.38	25	9731	18216	1.87	1.87	-
1.200	1.220	UNION LARD DEV.	9	0.00	1	250	250	1.90	1.91	+0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.2	2.98	39	24698	62081	3.24	3.24	-0.04
2.650	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	30.1	0.00	2	308	850	2.75	2.80	+0.05
5.940	4.780	ARAB PORTER CO.	15.8	0.00	3	100	1375	5.20	5.28	+0.08
10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	8.60	9	1812	17013	9.25	9.30	+0.05
1.590	1.180	WEEKEND INDUSTRIES	95.1	0.00	7	3480	4017	1.18	1.24	+0.06
3.740	1.900	INDUSTRIAL COMMER.	24.8	0.00	12	3237	6116	1.90	1.91	+0.01
8.190	6.420	JOR. WOODEN LUMBER	9.1	1.15	1	100	708	7.08	7.08	-
3.100	3.100	ARAB PAPER MFG.	20.3	5.41	18	5949	21955	3.68	3.70	+0.02
6.680	6.680	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.5	4.13	2	850	3228	6.68	6.68	-
8.000	4.750	JOR. ALUMINUM IND.	12.6	2.98	3	520	2370	4.81	4.80	-0.01
5.800	2.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.5	8.72	12	7244	25256	2.43	2.44	+0.01
1.740	1.480	LEVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	107	32390	17428	1.42	1.43	+0.01
1.500	1.050	ARAB TRAVEL & TOURS	9	0.00	3	100	623	1.24	1.23	-0.01
2.460	1.210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	6	4300	8664	1.28	1.34	+0.06
1.210	1.080	NATIONAL IND.	10.4	8.57	17	10880	7288	1.70	1.70	-
2.050	1.080	DIETETIC MED. CO.	9	0.00	9	2450	3847	1.18	1.16	-0.02
4.700	2.850	NATL. CANAL WIRE MFG.	17.7	0.00	3	1800	4380	2.90	2.90	-
1.280	0.930	JOR. PULP & PAPER	9	0.00	8	1800	1312	0.89	0.89	-
1.600	1.080	ARAB PAPER MFG.	27.9	0.00	46	41180	62081	3.24	3.24	-0.04
1.280	1.760	UNIV. MOOD. IND.	5.9	10.25	10	8400	14283	1.97	1.95	-0.02
2.100	1.340	JOR. IND. REPAIRS	17.6	0.00	19	4150	8880	1.42	1.40	-0.02
1.710	0.980	JOR. NEW CASH. CO.	27.4	0.00	12	6400	6488	3.02	3.01	-0.01
2.460	1.750	EL. CAY REPAIR WORK	9	0.00	4	2350	4381	1.87	1.86	-0.01
1.490	1.090	TEL. TOWERS	27.9	0.00	25	48800	87417	1.26	1.16	-0.10
1.210	1.130	UNION CIL. & VHS	29.1	0.00	7	650	767	1.18	1.18	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	INDEX: 108.38	
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	INDEX: 141.70	
PARTIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR 27/08/1996										
1.810	1.620	JOR. TRADE FAC.	16.8	0.00	8	3650	2300	0.63	0.63	-
1.850	1.850	HEIL. COINERS	9	0.00	8	1750	910	0.80	0.82	+0.02
1.980	1.720	WILSON INT. SV.	49.8	0.00	4	4200	866	1.72	1.73	+0.01
1.200	0.800	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	18	16900	9633	0.66	0.67	+0.01
1.640	1.340	JOR. TRAVEL & TOURS	9	0.00	2	600	600	0.60	0.67	+0.07
1.970	1.810	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	2	1500	990	0.97	0.96	-0.01
1.770	1.270	HAZEL. GUMMERS	9	0.00	1	7500	1073	1.42	1.43	+0.01
1.100	1.100	HAZEL. GUMMERS	9	0.00	20	11926	7275	0.80	0.86	+0.06
1.080	0.770	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	19	20950	16583	0.78	0.81	+0.03
1.940	1.940	DIETETIC MED. CO.	9	0.00	9	2450	3847	1.18	1.18	-
1.710	1.100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	4	4281	3989	1.18	1.18	-
1.880	0.630	HARI. WOOD. 65%	9	0.00	5	3300	985	0.64	0.64	-
1.850	1.440	HAZEL. GUMMERS	32.0	0.00	16	10450	8579	1.44	1.42	-0.02
1.450	0.770	HAZEL. GUMMERS	9	0.00	6	12000	9500	0.99	0.99	-
1.960	0.640	HAZEL. GUMMERS	9	0.00	1	500	326	0.64	0.64	-
1.500	0.530	KID. EAST COMPLEX	8.6	0.00	33	27100	19477	0.71	0.71	-
GRAND TOTAL										
147	120617	147	120617	147	120617	147	120617	147	120617	

* How 12 months low
* Listed during the past 12 months
* P/E ratio is 100 or more
* Negative %
* Earning is record of the most recent year

REUTERS BUSINESS

Pessimism prevails among industrialists at Sahab Industrial Estate

**ACCORDING TO a study conducted by the Society of Investors at the Sahab Industrial Estate, the production capacity of 100 industries has fallen and the number of shifts has dropped. The study which covered only 100 plants of the 325 plants operating at the estate showed that during the first seven months of this year, the production capacity stood at 45.7 per cent of the overall capacity compared to 62.56 per cent during the same period of last year. The number of shifts shrank from two to one, the study pointed out.

Although exports rose slightly as they reached 42.15 per cent of the total production, the drop in sales was 41.76 per cent during the first seven months of 1996 compared to the same period in 1995, the study indicated. It pointed out that the decline in sales has necessitated a cut in the workforce by 22 per cent of the 1995 employment level.

A breakdown by the volume of assets showed that a total of 34 factories had assets in excess of JD 1 million each, 18 had assets over JD 500,000, 14 with assets

more than JD 100,000 and 15 plants with investments above JD 10,000.

Of the 100 factories, 28.5 per cent saw the future to be better, 11.5 per cent saw the situation staying the same while 60 per cent of the industrialists said that the situation in the future will be worse. Expectations of the industrialists until the end of this year ranged between 22 per cent seeing a noticeable improvement, 18 per cent expecting no change and 60 per cent anticipating more decline.

Asked about the investment climate only one per cent view it as "very satisfactory" while 86 per cent said it was unsatisfactory. Thirteen per cent said the investment was normal.

The study revealed that 18 per cent of the industries covered in the survey achieved profits above 15 per cent in 1995. The remaining 82 per cent did not profit more than 15 per cent. Five per cent of the industrialists closed their businesses and terminated the work of their employees (Al Ra'i)

REUTERS BUSINESS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.4780	0.6435	1.7932	107.73	1.3672	1513.10	1.6580	5.0624
DE Mark	0.6788	1.0000	0.4549	0.8072	72.86	0.9244	1022.78	1.1211	3.4228
GB Sterling	1.5538	1.5538	1.0000	1.8537	167.18	2.1244	2350.45	2.5755	7.9639
CH Franc	0.5381	0.5381	0.5381	1.0000	90.24	1.1446	1266.40	138.82	4.2327
JP Yen	0.0093	1.3718	0.5989	1.0701	1.0000	1.2679	14.04	153.76	4.6889
CA Dollar	0.7354	1.0757	0.4676	0.8678	1.27	1.0000	1101.60	1.2660	3.6808
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9760	0.4249	0.7078	1408.25	0.9029	1.0000	10.95	3.3378
FR Franc	0.0031	0.9116	0.3678	0.7198	84.34	0.8241	911.87	1.0000	3.0476
FR Franc	0.0031	0.9116	0.3678	0.7198	84.34	0.8241	911.87	1.0000	3.0476

Energy			Mid-East Currencies					
Oil	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	20.85	20.80	SA Riyal	0.2686	0.3944	0.17181	0.31843	28.7522
W. Texas	21.99	21.50	AE Dirham	0.2724	0.40284	0.17529	0.32527	29.3694
Bony	20.85	20.80	KW Dinar	3.3458	4.94805	2.15322	3.95521	360.75
Dubai	18.41	18.65	BF Dinar	0.3770	3.92311	1.76707	3.16758	286.041
UL Gas	208.00	208.00	CY Pound	2.1708	3.2102	1.3971	2.5923	234.033

Sports

Giants edge Phillies; Astros lose

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — William Vanlandingham pitched eight scoreless innings and Glenallen Hill drove in the game's only run with a first-inning single as the San Francisco Giants claimed a 1-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday.

Vanlandingham (8-13), who entered the game with one complete game in the first 56 starts of his career, limited the Phillies to two hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

"We've been working all year on my follow-through,

and I really concentrated on that," Vanlandingham said. "It gave me more life in all of my pitches, so the ball moved more."

At Colorado, Andres Galarraga homered and drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies had 10 extra-base hits and Billy Swift won his first game in almost a year in a 9-5 rain-shortened seven-inning victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Swift (1-0), who made his first start since June 3rd and underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder

earlier in the season, allowed five runs and six hits in five innings.

In Houston, Andy Benes allowed two runs over seven innings and Royce Clayton had a run-scoring single in the seventh to lift the St. Louis Cardinals to a 3-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

Benes (14-9) allowed five hits, walked five and struck out 10 for his 11th win in 12 decisions. The Cardinals moved within one-half game of first-place Houston in the National League Central Division.

Sharpe hits winner to ease pressure on Leeds

LEEDS (R) — Winger Lee Sharpe hit a superb strike from the edge of the penalty area to give Leeds their first win of the season on Monday and leave hapless Wimbledon anchored at the bottom of the England premier league.

Sharpe repaid a huge slice of the 4.5 million pound (\$6.98 million) fee Leeds handed Manchester United for his services with a top-draw second-half goal to hand Wimbledon their third successive defeat.

Ian Rush, the Welsh striker signed from Liverpool in the close season, set up the goal, feeding Sharpe as he galloped forward and the former England winger cut inside onto his unfavoured right foot to arc a shot into the right-hand corner of the net.

The only goal of the match also brought some relief for under-fire Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson following the team's poor start to the season. Home fans frequently booed their own side until Sharpe turned the jeers to cheers.

Betis sign Real forward

MADRID (AFP) — Real Betis Sevilla completed the 1.200 million peseta (\$9.6 million) signing of Real Madrid forward Alfonso Perez on Tuesday.

Perez joined Betis on loan last season and was due to return to Madrid but he asked for a transfer when Fabio Capello took over as real coach because he feared the former AC Milan coach would not include him in his first-team squad. Betis also got Perez' brother Ivan and Real Madrid's B team goalkeeper Valerio as part of the deal. Real were expected to use the transfer fee to buy Brazilian forward Flavio Conceicao.

Ban may force Bowe to fight abroad

NEW YORK (AFP) — Riddick Bowe may have to fight outside the United States for the next year if his manager Rock Newman is suspended for a year by the New York State Athletic Commission.

The commission, due to make its findings known later on Tuesday, was reported to have refrained from banning Newman for life after the riot which ended his clash with Andrew Golota last month.

But any Bowe fight promoted by Newman would probably have to be held outside the United States because the suspension should be enforced by other state boxing authorities.

Bowe hopes eventually to fight Mike Tyson, the World Boxing Council champion who tries to reclaim his world boxing association title from Bruce Seldon on September 7.

Bowe was also expected to be fined \$250,000 under an agreement worked out between lawyers for Newman and Bowe and the commission.

The commission will take the fine from the million dollars in purse money that was withheld after the July 11 fight.

Newman led a charge across the ring which led to a riot as referee Wayne Kelley was disqualifying Golota for repeated low blows.

Newman and his firm, Spencer Promotions, would be banned until July 31, 1997, from promoting any boxing event in New York — as well as being barred from entering any building in the state in which a boxing event is being held.

Seventeen arrests were made after the riot in which eight police officers were injured.

Yankees lose as Orioles down A's

BALTIMORE (R) — Cal Ripken's bases-loaded walk scored Brady Anderson with the winning run in the bottom of the 10th as the Baltimore Orioles regained control of the top spot in the wild-card race with a wild 12-11 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Trailing by a run entering the 11th, the Orioles rallied against Oakland reliever Mark Acre (0-2) with a walk and a triple by Brady Anderson to tie the game. Then Oakland manager Art Howe decided to intentionally walk Rafael Palmeiro and Bobby Bonilla to load the bases but Acre was nowhere near the plate to Ripken.

The decisive pitch nearly hit Ripken and gave the Orioles a one-half game lead over the Chicago White Sox in the wild-card race.

In Seattle, Jay Buhner's eighth-inning single snapped a tie as the Seattle Mariners edged the New York Yankees 2-1 in the opener of a three-game series.

New York starter Jimmy

Key left the game in the first inning after Seattle shortstop Alex Rodriguez lined a shot off his left elbow.

The Yankees have lost 12 of their last 19 games and their lead in the AL east over Baltimore fell to five games.

At California, Tim Wakefield pitched a six-hitter for his third complete game of the season and Mo Vaughn and Troy O'Leary hit solo home runs in the second inning as the surging Boston Red Sox won their third straight 4-1 over the California Angels.

Boston has won seven of eight and is 20-6 since August 2nd. The Red Sox are two games over .500 for the first time this season.

In Chicago, Cal Eldred pitched 5-1/3 scoreless innings and John Jaha scored one run and doubled in another as the Milwaukee Brewers held off the slumping Chicago White Sox, 3-2.

Eldred (6-5) walked one and struck out three. Angel Miranda retired one batter and Bob Wickman retired

the next four but loaded the bases in the eighth.

In Detroit, Jim Thome's solo homer in the ninth inning snapped a tie and Charles Nagy pitched a three-hitter for his first win in over a month, leading the Cleveland Indians to their 11th straight victory over the Detroit tigers, 2-1.

With the score tied 1-1 in the ninth, Thome hit a 2-2 pitch from starter Felipe Lira (6-11) over the left-field fence for his 29th homer.

In Toronto, Juan Guzman allowed three runs over seven innings to make homers by Joe Carter and Carlos Delgado stand up as the surging Toronto Blue Jays held off the Minnesota Twins, 5-3.

Toronto returned home from a 10-game road trip and won for the eighth time in nine games as Guzman (11-8) allowed nine hits and struck out eight without a walk.

Major League Standings

American League Eastern Division

	W	L	Pct	Gb
New York	74	56	.569	-
Baltimore	69	61	.531	5
Boston	67	65	.508	8
Toronto	62	70	.470	13
Detroit	47	84	.359	27 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	Gb
Cleveland	78	53	.595	-
Chicago	0	63	.526	9
Minnesota	65	66	.496	13
Milwaukee	63	69	.477	15 1/2
Kansas City	59	73	.447	19 1/2

Western Division

	W	L	Pct	Gb
Texas	5	56	.573	-
Seattle	67	63	.515	7 1/2
Oakland	63	71	.470	13 1/2
California	61	70	.466	14

National League Eastern Division

	W	L	Pct	Gb
Atlanta	81	48	.628	-
Montreal	70	59	.543	11
Florida	61	70	.466	21
New York	59	72	.450	23
Philadelphia	53	79	.402	29 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	Gb
Houston	70	62	.530	-
St. Louis	69	62	.527	1/2
Chicago	64	64	.500	4
Cincinnati	64	66	.492	5
Pittsburgh	55	75	.423	14

Western Division

	W	L	Pct	Gb
San Diego	72	60	.545	-
Los Angeles	70	60	.538	1
Colorado	69	63	.523	3
San Francisco	56	73	.434	14 1/2

Romania club boss banned for headbutt

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian soccer federation has banned first division club Jiul Petrosani's president Miron Cozma for two years for headbutting a visiting team player, a federation statement said.

Romania's soccer bosses also fined Cozma, a well-known miners' union leader, 10 million lei (\$3000) for the half-time attack on Dinamo Bucharest's Danut Lupu last Sunday.

Miners led by Cozma rioted in Bucharest in 1990 and 1991, bringing down the reformist government of premier Petre Roman.

Cozma is awaiting trial for assault and criminal damage in a bar in his home town of Petrosani, 300 kms west of Bucharest.

The attack on Lupu came during a tunnel skirmish between opposing players as they left the field.

"Cozma's blow was not too painful because

I'm a tall man," Lupu told Reuters on Tuesday. Lupu is one of the tallest players in Romania's first division, towering over Cozma by some 17 cms.

Jiul Petrosani, promoted to the first division this year, won the league game 1-0.

Cozma is barred from taking part in any official soccer activity during the ban.

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Russian champion defends WBC title

TOKYO (AP) — Undefeated Russian champion Yuri Arbachakov stopped Japanese challenger Takato Toguchi in the ninth round Monday night, knocking the defender down twice as he defended his World Boxing Council flyweight title.

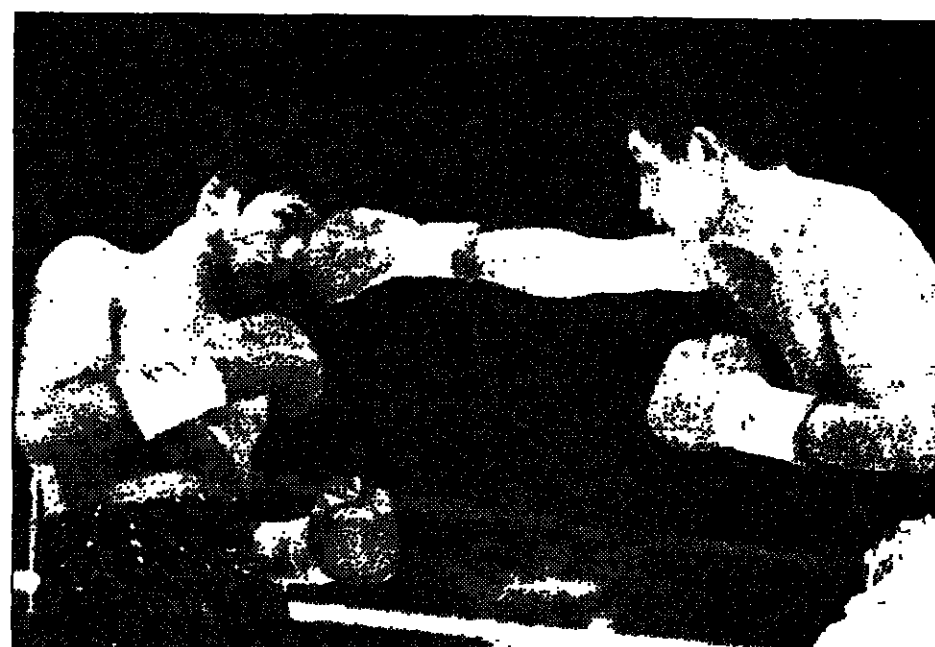
Japanese referee Nobuaki Urasaki stopped the fight one minute, 29 seconds into the ninth when Arbachakov swarmed over the helpless Toguchi before more than 7,000 spectators at the Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena in downtown Tokyo.

It was the 29-year-old Arbachakov's ninth defense of the title he won from Muangchai Kittikasem of Thailand on June 23, 1992, in Tokyo with an eight-round knockout.

Arbachakov, who fights out of a Japanese gym, attacked the 26-year-old Toguchi with sharp and speedy blows from the first round, but the Japanese challenger escaped many blows with his distinctive footwork and weaving style.

In the seventh round, Arbachakov knocked down Toguchi with a left to the chin. Toguchi stood up, but Arbachakov continued his attack and again felled him with a rapid series of blows.

Toguchi, WBC flyweight No. eight-ranked contender, stood up again and responded with a series of blows before the seventh round ended.



Champion Yuri Arbachakov (right) of Russia lands a right to the face of Japanese challenger Takato Toguchi in the eighth round of their World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title bout in Tokyo. The Russian champion Arbachakov retained his title by stopping Japan's Toguchi in the ninth round (Reuters photo)

Arbachakov did not fight hard in the eighth round, apparently taking a rest. In the ninth, he came out with several series of short punches with Toguchi against the ropes before the referee stopped the fight.

Up to the eighth round, judge Ken Morita of Japan scored it 79-74, Kazumasa Kuwata of Japan had it 79-71 and American Judge Herbert Minn had it 79-73, all for Arbachakov.

Arbachakov told reporters after the fight, "I prepared

well." "I will continue to defend my title," he said. Arbachakov will reportedly check into a Tokyo hospital Tuesday for further tests on a possible fracture in his right hand.

Kyodo news agency quoted an Arbachakov handler from the Tokyo-based Kyoei gym as saying a Japanese boxing commission physician looked at the swollen hand after the fight and said he might have fractured a bone during the fight.

Arbachakov, winner of the 1989 world cup amateur boxing championship in Moscow, is from Tatishgol in Russia. He signed a professional contract in Japan in 1989.

The victory brought Arbachakov's record to 23-0 with 16 knockouts. It was Toguchi's third defeat against 18 victories, including 15 knockouts.

Arbachakov and Toguchi both weighed 50.8 kilograms (112 pounds), the limit of the flyweight class.

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Ekeus meets Iraqi officials as Baghdad press assails him

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus held fresh talks on Tuesday with senior Iraqi officials during a mission to demand unrestricted access to sites suspected of hiding weapons material and documents.

The state-run Al Jumhuriyah newspaper said Mr. Ekeus was "provoking" trouble with his demands and that the Iraqis wanted to know soon when the U.N. inspections would end.

A high-level Iraqi source added that the Iraqis had reproached Mr. Ekeus during his talks Monday and Tuesday with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sabah and Oil Minister Amer Rashid.

They complained both about his insistence on unrestricted access as well as his suspicions that Iraq was hiding ballistic missiles, said the source who asked not to be named.

Mr. Ekeus arrived here Monday with a U.N. Security Council declaration demanding Iraq provide unrestricted access to its sites and warning that only full cooperation could lead to the lifting of a six-year oil and trade embargo.

The Iraqi source objected to Mr. Ekeus's suspicions that Iraq was hiding up to 16 missiles as well as weapons documents. "We told him that his suspicions are unjustified," he said.

"What would we do with a few missiles compared to the thousands the United States and Israel have? We have already destroyed arms and equipment which cost

billions of dollars," the Iraqi source said. He said many documents were destroyed during allied bombing in the 1991 Gulf war and that the Iraqis had not kept all documents over the last 20 years.

Al Jumhuriyah said meanwhile Mr. Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (USCOC), "has got involved in an American political plot hostile to Iraq which seeks to delay a lifting of the embargo" imposed six years ago.

"We hope that Mr. Ekeus' visit will be fruitful, that it will lead to a settlement of the problems so that UNSCOC can speed up the announcement of the end of its mission," the daily said.

"UNSCOC's insistence on searching sensitive sites linked to Iraq's sovereignty and national security on the pretext it is seeking important documents and missiles amounts to provocation," the newspaper said.

"Ekeus' involvement in the (American) game is all the clearer because he has obtained a declaration from the U.N. Security Council before coming to Baghdad," it said.

Mr. Ekeus said in July that Iraq still possessed between six and 16 long-range missiles which could be loaded with chemical or biological weapons.

Without confirming or denying the missiles existed, Jumhuriyah said: "This number has no military importance, as Iraq has applied what's necessary in (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 687" on disarmament.

Yemen rules out use of force against Eritrea

SANAA (Agencies) — In an apparent climb down from remarks he made a day earlier, Yemen's president said Tuesday that his country would not go to war if Eritrea refused to withdraw troops from a disputed Red Sea island.

"A peaceful solution is the only one available to us. We will not resort to a military solution," the official Yemeni news agency, SABAH, quoted Ali Abdullah Saleh as saying in an interview.

On Monday, Mr. Saleh said that "if the Eritreans do not withdraw troops from the (Lesser Hanish) island, then Yemen will retaliate decisively with force to get them out."

Yemen and Eritrea have a long-standing dispute over three islands that sit between them in the Red Sea.

The dispute flared last December when Eritrea captured the largest of the three islands, Greater Hanish, in a brief battle.

Eritrea took a second island, Lesser Hanish, on Aug. 10. Zuqar, the third island, remains under Yemeni control.

The two countries signed a French-brokered agreement in May to settle the dispute through inter-

national arbitration.

The three islands sit astride one of the world's major shipping lanes, 160 kilometres north of the Bab Al Mandeb strait at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

Shipping security in the area is of vital importance to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which has an oil export terminal.

In Yanbu further north, and to Egypt, whose revenues from the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea to the Mediterranean are crucial to its economy.

Abdul Meguid plans visit

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid will travel to Yemen on Saturday for talks with President Saleh on the dispute with Eritrea.

Mr. Meguid will start the visit on Saturday and is expected to hold talks with Mr. Saleh for several days on the dispute, an Arab League spokesman said.

He will brief Mr. Saleh on the support and efforts deployed by the Arab League to "restore Yemen's sovereignty over the Hanish archipelago," the spokesman said.

Japanese official team visits Orient House in defiance of Israeli stand

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An official Japanese delegation led by a foreign ministry official defied Israeli disapproval and went to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) semi-official headquarters at the Orient House in East Jerusalem on Monday, Palestinian officials said.

The Japanese delegation led by Seiichi Chino Noboro, briefed Palestinian officials on talks earlier between Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Palestinian statement said.

The Japanese told the Palestinian delegation led by the president of the Al Quds University, Sari Nusseibeh, that they had conveyed to Mr. Netanyahu the frustration felt by the Palestinians over the lack of progress in the peace process.

On the status of Jerusalem, Mr. Noboro said that as far as Japan was concerned, "the east-

ern part of the Holy City was part of the Palestinian territories occupied" by Israel in 1967, the statement said.

Mr. Noboro said "only by applying the principle of land for peace" endorsed by the Madrid conference of 1991, could a comprehensive Middle East peace be achieved.

Mr. Ikeda wound up Monday in Israel a tour which has also taken him to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Gaza.

In talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Mr. Ikeda promised an extra \$11.6 million in economic aid for the Palestinians in the autonomous Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Israel is opposed to visits by foreign delegations to the Orient House and will not allow the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to operate in East Jerusalem which it regards as an integral part of Israel's "united and eternal capital."

Husseini holds talks with Syrians and Palestinian opposition

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Faisal Husseini, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, has held talks on growing tension over the future of the Holy City with Syrian officials and hardline Palestinian opposition chiefs during a visit to Damascus.

"We discussed the issue of Jerusalem, the dangers threatening the Holy City and ways to oppose Israeli measures aimed at increasing the Jewish stranglehold on it," Mr. Husseini said after a meeting late Monday with the head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Ahmad Jibril. Mr. Jibril, for his part, said the talks concentrated on Arab claims to Jerusalem.

Mr. Husseini also met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Monday to discuss "measures adopted by Israel in East Jerusalem in violation of international norms," Syrian officials said.

Mr. Husseini plans to meet leaders of the Syrian-based Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, which like the PFLP-GC are fiercely opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's autonomy accords with Israel.

Mr. Husseini is also to meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during his visit of several days to Damascus, which began Sunday.

His visit here marks another step in a recent rapprochement between Mr. Assad and Mr. Arafat.

NEW YORK (AP) — Three men accused of plotting to blow up U.S. airliners over Asia planned their terror campaign as a "perverse mission of retaliation," a prosecutor said Monday in closing arguments.

Assistant U.S. attorney Dietrich Snell said Ramzi Yousef and the two other defendants hoped to punish the United States for its support of Israel by creating "terror, misery and chaos."

"They had the materials, they had the know-how and the determination," Mr. Snell said.

Yousef, the alleged ringleader, faces a separate trial later this year as the alleged mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Four men have already been convicted and sentenced to life in prison in that bombing, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Prosecutors say the defendants in the current trial — Yousef, Wali Khan Amin Shah and Abdul Hakim Murad — planned a two-day terror spree in which they would board airliners headed for U.S. cities, plant bombs and then board other



KING VISITS AIY: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday accepts a sword as a gift during a visit he paid to Aiy town in Karak Governorate (see page one) (Petra photo)

Israeli police destroy bedouin camp, say it was on firing range

HATHALIN BEDOUIN ENCAMPMENT, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Hamdeh Hathalin sat on the ground Monday among torn mattresses, scattered boxes and bent tent poles.

Dozens of Israeli border police raided the encampment Monday morning, destroying eight tents and three shacks, the bedouin said.

Israeli authorities said the bedouin were camped on an army firing range — although the site is only about a kilometre from the Jewish settlement of Kedar — and had to be moved for their own safety.

"There's no objection to the fact that they are in the

area, but they cannot be in a firing zone," said Peter Lerner, spokesman for Israel's military "government" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ms. Hathalin, however, saw it differently. "God shall punish them," the 65-year-old grandmother said, pulling a bent peg from the ground. "I was preparing tea for my grandchildren. They came at us, yelling."

One police officer drove his car into a shack, destroying it, she said. Others cut the tent ropes. "I was yelling at them. 'Fear God, keep the tent for the children,'" she said.

Ms. Hathalin said after the police left she was missing \$1,700.

Another resident of the camp, Maryam Daoud, said she was missing \$2,000, and two other women accused the border police of stealing gold jewelry.

The border police referred calls to the army, who referred calls to spokesman Lerner.

The Hathalin bedouin live about 12 kilometres along a twisting dirt road from the Jahalin tribe, which is being evicted to make way for the expansion of the Maale Adumim settlement.

Bulldozers and cranes have been tearing into the land surrounding the Jahalin encampment for months, and the Israeli supreme

court has ruled that the 50 Jahalin families have to leave by Wednesday.

The tribe has filed a final appeal against their eviction and relocation to a rocky site near a Jerusalem garbage dump.

The bedouin, once a semi-nomadic people who settled in different areas in Israel after the creation of the state in 1948, have been involved in a series of land disputes with Israeli authorities.

Last month, bedouin in Israel's southern desert clashed with police in an effort to block construction of a Jewish neighbourhood on land claimed by the tribe.

Tens of thousands of bedouin live in Israeli-con-

Critic of Syria wins, pro-Syrians crushed in north Lebanon

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — A Christian critic of Syria's presence in Lebanon won an unexpected victory in legislative elections here while pro-Syrian and Islamic candidates were soundly defeated, according to unofficial results released Tuesday.

Christian leader Boutros Harb ranked fourth in Sunday's elections in north Lebanon, a region which has traditionally been under Syrian influence, to secure a parliamentary seat.

Two other Christian opposition candidates, Maurice Fadel and Nicolas Ghosn, were also among the 28 elected in the polls.

Mr. Harb, a strong critic of Syria's influence in Lebanon, joined a Christian boycott of the last elections in 1992 in protest at the presence of 35,000 Syrian troops on Lebanese soil.

He said Tuesday's results revealed that when people "heard that authorities were calling for free and fair elections and at the same time imposed regional and local vetoes on specific candi-

dates, they (backed) the latter."

Polling in north Lebanon, the second round of region-by-region elections, took place amid opposition accusations of irregularities and pressure from Syria.

The large number of candidates, 132, and the fact that 45 per cent of the 581,000 voters turned out delayed final official results until late Tuesday, officials said.

The results showed a sharp drop in support for former Prime Minister Omar Karami, a pro-Syrian Sunni Muslim.

He secured a seat but was beaten by 13,000 votes by his rival and cousin Ahmad Karami in Lebanon's second city of Tripoli, a traditional stronghold of Omar Karami's family.

Analysts said his poor showing was due to his opposition to Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who succeeded him in office after 1992 street protests.

Several figures on his list lost out, apart from Suleiman Franjieh, a

Christian ally of Syria and billionaire businessman Issam Fares.

A candidate for the Alawites, Ahmad Hbous, came first among the 28 successful candidates with 120,413 votes. Observers said the unpopularity of his rival, Ali Eid, a former head of a pro-Syrian militia, contributed to his victory.

Among the losers were pro-Syrian parties, including two candidates for the Syrian National Socialist Party, one for the Lebanese branch of the Baath Party ruling in Syria and three for the Sunni Muslim fundamentalist Jamaa Islamiyah.

The leader of the Christian Falange Party, Kataeb, was also defeated at the polls which one analyst said allowed voters to "get back at the militias which oppressed them during the civil war."

A first round of voting to Lebanon's 128-seat parliament took place Aug. 18 in Mount Lebanon, a Christian stronghold. It came just days after a new election law was passed, carving

Mount Lebanon into six voting districts and diluting its anti-Syrian vote.

Elections will also be held Sept. 1 in Beirut, Sept. 8 in southern Lebanon and Sept. 15 in the Bekaa Valley.

Mr. Hariri meanwhile geared up for next round of voting with a pledge to "build this country and remove Israel from the south."

Mr. Hariri, who is running on a record of rebuilding Lebanon and stemming Muslim fundamentalism, announced 16 ticket-mates for Sunday's voting to fill 19 seats reserved in the legislature for Beirut.

"We do not promise you the Garden of Eden," he told thousands of supporters at the capital's municipal stadium. "We promise we will build this country and remove Israel from the south."

"Together, we will restore Lebanon's glory and dignity," he added. "On Sept. 1, you will be voting for Beirut's future — your's and your children's."

Bomb plotters planned 'mission of retaliation' — U.S. attorney

NEW YORK (AP) — Three men accused of plotting to blow up U.S. airliners over Asia planned their terror campaign as a "perverse mission of retaliation," a prosecutor said Monday in closing arguments.

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Prosecutors say the defendants in the current trial — Yousef, Wali Khan Amin Shah and Abdul Hakim Murad — planned a two-day terror spree in which they would board airliners headed for U.S. cities, plant bombs and then board other

planes where more explosives would be concealed.

Mr. Snell said that a computer seized at an apartment Yousef had rented in Manila, where the plot was hatched, contained "devastating evidence" of the scheme.

He said Yousef enlisted his conspirators in the fall of 1994 and taught them to construct bombs.

Murad and Shah "studied with the same explosives instructor, and that was Ramzi Yousef," Mr. Snell said, citing the similarity of notes and drawings for bomb components that belonged to each defendant.

He said Yousef used the laptop computer found at the Manila apartment to map out which planes would be attacked and even how the bombers would make their escapes.

"Remember what would have happened to the hundreds, to the thousands of people on those flights," Mr. Snell urged the jury.

Using flight records, passport stamps and telephone records, Mr. Snell reconstructed what he said were the trio's movements in the final months of 1994 and early 1995.

They used aliases and set up a bogus company to purchase chemicals, switching identities to hide their tracks, he said.

Yousef's Manila apartment became a makeshift bomb factory where chemicals were stored in grape juice bottles.

To test their handiwork, Mr. Snell said Yousef and Shah first planted a bomb in a Manila movie theater on Dec. 1, 1994. The bomb caused minor injuries. In a second test run 10 days later, Yousef planted a bomb on a Philippines Airline flight that killed a passenger and heavily damaged the plane's navigational equipment, he said. But Yousef bungled the mixing of chemicals on Jan. 6, 1995, filling his apartment with acrid smoke and attracting police who found incriminating evidence, including chemicals, wires, digital watches and the computer.

Mr. Snell said a "frantic" Yousef paid \$848 cash in the early hours of Jan. 7 for a ticket to Hong Kong and Singapore.

"An expensive ticket, because this terrorist flies first class, and he's got to get out of town," the prosecutor said.

Murad was arrested at the Manila apartment. Yousef travelled to Pakistan, where he was picked up by U.S. authorities on Feb. 7, 1995. Shah was arrested in the Philippines but escaped on Jan. 15, 1995. He was re-arrested Dec. 11, 1995 and brought to the United States.

Mr. Snell concluded his four-hour-plus summation by praising the jury for its appreciation of "just how much is at stake here."

Closing arguments for the defence are to begin on Tuesday, and the case should go to the jury later this week.

Yousef is expected to deliver his own summation. Acting as his own attorney, he had argued that the case was based on fabricated evidence planted by authorities.

None of the defendants took the stand during the trial. If convicted on conspiracy charges, they could each be sentenced to life in prison.

Woman bites off boy's tongue for gossiping

CAIRO (R) — A 17-year-old Egyptian got more than he bargained for when a woman he had spread rumours about bit off his tongue, security sources said. They said the woman, Bothaina Ahmad, 39, persuaded Alana Hassan to help her in the fields in their village near Zefra town in the central Nile Delta. She began kissing him but then bit off his tongue. Ms. Ahmad told police Hassan had spread rumours about her alleged immoral behaviour. Police charged her with assault.

Motorist's arrest brings free flight home

WELLINGTON — A New Zealand motorist got an unexpected free flight to Tonga after being caught drinking and driving. The man drew attention to himself in the North Island town of Tauranga while trying to back his car out of a pothole Saturday night. He spun the wheels so much that the tyres caught alight and smoke began pouring from under the bonnet, the New Zealand Press Association reported. Police arrested the man and charged him with drunk-driving, then discovered he was wanted by the immigration service as an overstay. He was due to catch a flight to Nuku'alofa in Tonga.

Yul Brynner's Magnificent 7 guns to be auctioned

PARIS (R) — The six-shooters and black 10-gallon hat used by the late Yul Brynner in the film *The Magnificent Seven* will go under the hammer in Paris next month. Other Brynner memorabilia to be auctioned include 30 pipes and two cigarette cases that belonged to the U.S. film star who died of lung cancer in 1985. French auctioneers Tajan said. Also being sold are the silk costumes Brynner wore in *The King And I*, for which he won an Oscar in 1957, and the throwing knives used by James Coburn when he joined Brynner in defending Mexican villagers against bandits in *The Magnificent Seven*.

Karpov beats virtual world in 32 moves

HELSINKI (R) — Russian chess veteran Anatoly Karpov took just 32 moves and four hours, 25 minutes to force the resignation of the outside world in the first live chess contest on the internet. Karpov, International Chess Federation (FIDE) world champion, sat at a real chess board in a Helsinki hotel and his moves were transferred to a virtual board on surfers' screens. Contestants then had seven minutes to vote for the response they preferred and a computer calculated the most popular one. A Finn then carried out the world's chosen move on Karpov's board.

Simpson lawyer seeks ban on broad range of evidence

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — O.J. Simpson's attorneys filed a battery of motions asking the judge in his civil wrongful deaths lawsuit to bar evidence ranging from spousal abuse to the former football hero's financial worth. Simpson, found innocent by last October of the murders of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman in June 1994, is being sued for damages by the families of the victims, who allege he was responsible for their deaths. Among the two-foot stack of motions filed was one by the family of Nicole Brown to bar any mention of stories they sold about the criminal pro-